

Labour splits rank in teachers pay row

p's ge ne

formula

SURE
WINDOW
LOCKS
SECURE
REPAIRS
WINDSHIELDS
JAN. HARDWARE
D.I.Y. STOPS
Insurance & Locksmiths

THE GUARDIAN

Printed in London and Manchester

Saturday February 23 1985 23p

Tipp-Ex
ASK FOR
IT BY
NAME
AND
COLOUR

National Trust
bust
Page 9




GRASSROOTS

Weimar
discretions
Page 11




TRAVEL

Jagger
goes
solo
Page 12



ARTS

The
resurrection
of
Ruth Ellis
Page 13



PEOPLE

Pages 15-18
New
wizards
of Oz
SPORT



Treasuries act to calm money markets

Soaring dollar deflates PM

By Alex Brummer, Peter Rodgers and James Naughtie

Treasury officials on both sides of the Atlantic last night sought to calm the foreign exchanges after President Reagan's endorsement of Mrs Thatcher's public expression of anxiety that the dollar should be restrained, and after she had left a clear impression that President Reagan and his team were as worried about the dollar's rise as other Western economic powers.

Mr Reagan's comments on Thursday night at a nationally televised news conference that there was no point in trying to knock down the dollar helped push the pound to a new closing low against the dollar of \$1.0765, 0.55 cents down, after touching a record low of \$1.0730. The German mark was even weaker, falling 3.25 pfennigs to a 14-year low of DM3.3255.

US monetary officials claimed that there had been no change in official policy. The British reaction was that President Reagan liked to stick to simple political truths, and that it was absurd to see his comments on the dollar as a technical message about the state of the US economy.

However, there was no discounting the irritation in Whitehall at the timing of the President's remarks, which foreign exchange dealers blamed for a large part of the new strength of the dollar. It has already been boosted this week by the US Federal Reserve chairman.

Mr Paul Volcker, whose testimony on Wednesday was interpreted as leading to higher US interest rates.

Mrs Thatcher faced a chorus of derision from the Opposition when she returned from her visit to Washington yesterday.

Mr Roy Hattersley, the Shadow Chancellor, said: "Her reward for her open infatuation has been a slap in the face." Mr Reagan had

RETAIL prices rose to 5 per cent in the year to January, according to figures published yesterday. The figure in December was 4.6 per cent and with the rise in mortgage rates, petrol prices and gas tariffs still to work through that may prove a low point, writes Chris Ruhne. Most independent forecasters expect the inflation to stay above 5 per cent during the next six months. Report, back page; leader comment, page 14

made it brutally clear that he did not intend to bail out the British economy.

"If Mrs Thatcher went to the United States with any serious purpose, she has come back totally empty-handed," Mr Hattersley said.

Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, joined in the criticism, and said Mrs Thatcher had admitted that she was deluged in preventing the rise of the dollar and the fall of the pound.

Mr Steel said that Mrs Thatcher was sending the currency markets a message that she had given up. The Chancellor should therefore tell us whether the pound sterling would not have been at exactly

the same level today without his panic action.

"If this is so, every household with a mortgage has suffered in vain, paying out hundreds of pounds a year in extra interest because of negligent Nigel's mismanagement."

Mrs Thatcher watched the Reagan press conference at the British embassy in Washington after meeting the president's economic cabinet a few hours earlier.

Mrs Thatcher had left the impression that Mr Reagan was worried about the dollar's rise, but said there were no ready answers to the problem. She brushed aside the notion that she needed to teach the Americans anything about the budget deficit or the dollar.

At his press conference, Mr Reagan, putting aside the growing alarm in the US and abroad about the strong dollar, said: "I think if we start talking around with trying to reduce the value of the dollar, we put ourselves back into the inflation spiral, and that we don't want." He also noted that American consumers were benefiting from the dollar's strength by "the purchase of products which are cheap by our standards."

With the Prime Minister still on American soil, Mr Reagan began to muse aloud at his press conference about the difficulties of bringing the dollar's value down.

"I can remember when our dollar was 'devalued'," Mr Reagan said, "and there weren't many people happy about that. I think the problem of the dollar today is that our trading partners in the world have not caught up with us in economic recovery."

The President, rather than recommending any changes in

Turn to back page, col. 4



Haing Ngor, right, star of the film *The Killing Fields*, flew into Nice from the United States yesterday to meet a niece he had not seen since a family separation in the 1975 evacuation of Cambodia. The niece, now Mrs Don Pichsangha, was with her husband to greet him.

Teachers to ballot after law ruling

By Andrew Moneur Education Staff

THE National Union of Teachers was last night compelled to halt its campaign of disruptive action in schools in Solihull, West Midlands, but possibly only for a single day.

The union was ordered by a High Court judge to call off its 16-day campaign of sanctions, which included teachers into industrial action during their current pay dispute, because it had been called without a ballot.

But the NUT immediately announced that it would ballot its 1,000 members in Solihull on Monday. And Mr Doug McAvoy, deputy general secretary, said that he was confident of winning support for resumption of the action. The NUT is due to start selective strike action — whose legality has not been challenged — in Solihull on Tuesday.

Mr Justice Warner granted an injunction to Solihull borough council, which had argued that the NUT had called for disruptive action without first balloting members, this losing under the 1984 Trade Union Act, immunity to legal action.

The Solihull legal action was regarded by other education authorities as a test case. But the judgment did not settle whether the sanctions applied by the NUT amounted to a withdrawal of goodwill, as the union insists, or a breach of contract, as the authorities believe.

The union has asked members to refuse to cover for absent staff, and to boycott school lunches and out-

Miners to meet TUC again in new search for negotiations

By John Krill and James Naughtie

Leaders of the National Union of Mineworkers held out the hope yesterday that talks may still be possible with the coal board as their members began a new surge back to work.

Although coalfield conferences in South Wales and Durham voted to stay on strike the board claimed there were 456 new faces at the pits, the second highest figure for a Friday since the drift back began.

The TUC last night agreed to an NUT request for a meeting with its finance and general purposes committee on Monday to review the failure of the attempts by the general secretary, Mr Norman Willis, to bridge the gap between the union and the board.

The NUT general secretary, Mr Peter Heathfield said the three national officials hoped

to explain the union's position to the committee "and on the basis of their talks forward."

He said on BBC radio, "I think the overwhelming majority of miners at present on strike will continue to strike. I would hope, also, that we are able to get back round the table to end this long bitter dispute."

Mr Heathfield did not accept that the NUT had isolated itself from the TUC but he said there "could have been a misunderstanding" between the two. He added that trying to work out details of an agreement through a third party was "virtually impossible."

The Government last night launched a campaign to urge more striking miners to return to work next week.

The Energy Secretary, Mr

Peter Walker, said: "It is to the committee 'and on the basis of their talks forward.'" He said on BBC radio, "I think the overwhelming majority of miners at present on strike will continue to strike. I would hope, also, that we are able to get back round the table to end this long bitter dispute."

Mr Walker said: "Within hours of the appalling Scargill rejection of the TUC's efforts, even on a Friday, those miners remaining on strike have started to take the only sane decision and return to work."

His comments will be echoed by other ministers over the weekend, in the hope that a rise in the numbers working would put increased pressure on the NUT leadership, but there are still worries among senior ministers over the possibility of an organised return to work without a settlement.

Some of those close to Mrs

Turn to back page, col. 7

NEWS IN BRIEF

CIA blow on arms

A REPORT by the CIA showing that the Soviet Union is spending less on defence than the United States has punched holes in American justifications for its military build-up. Page 4

Tapping challenge

THE Home Secretary, Mr Leon Brittan, has been challenged to allow an inquiry into allegations of improper telephone tapping by MI5. Back page.

BMA caves in

THE British Medical Association has bowed to reality and is planning co-operation with the Government over limitations to the NHS drugs list. Page 3.

M & S in credit

MARKS & SPENCER's credit card scheme seems certain to be a huge success, and Woolworths could be next in the High Street shopping scramble. Page 20.

NZ warning

THE prime minister of New Zealand has told the Soviet Union not to interfere in the dispute with the United States over visits by American warships to his country's ports. Page 6.

PWR denial

THE Central Electricity Generating Board has scoffed at suggestions that weapons production is behind its plans for a pressurised water reactor in Suffolk. Page 3.

Slow death

A DOCKER's wife has died from mesothelioma after years of washing her husband's asbestos-covered work clothes. Back page.

The weather

CLOUDY but dry. Details back page.

Reagan fluffs lines in Nicaragua script

From Michael White in Washington

President Reagan's unprecedented call for the reconstruction of the Sandinista Government in Nicaragua yesterday reduced White House officials to stonewalling silence.

Not for the first time, the President had fluffed some unscripted lines in one of his press conferences, leaving off his line to sort the wheat from the chaff.

His salvo against the left-wing Sandinistas, the second in a week, was echoed last night by the Secretary of State, Mr Shultz, in a denunciation of their "Communist tyranny."

At briefings given at both White House and State Department, officials testily referred inquiries to the President's own words without further elaboration.

Asked whether the Administration's goals now included overthrow of the regime in Managua, the President said on nationwide TV: "Well, removed in the sense of its present structure in which it is a communist, totalitarian state." Urging them to share power, he added later: "We're saying we want them to have a chance to have that democracy

they fought for. And I don't think the Sandinistas have a decent leg to stand on."

Plainly the remarks fell short of a direct appeal to overthrow the government of another country. Mr Reagan cited, however, both the UN and Organisation of American States charters to justify the US's right to collective and individual self-defence in the region. But his main emphasis was on internal democracy.

In the wake of the speech, officials said that US policy was fourfold: internal democracy, the restoration of military equilibrium in the region, the removal of Cuban and Soviet support inside Nicaragua, and an end to its alleged subversion of its neighbours. The Administration believes that the Sandinistas have dishonoured pledges made to the OAS.

Mr Reagan and Mr Shultz are stepping up the propaganda war, as an alternative to direct intervention, which few in Congress anticipate.

In San Francisco last night, Mr Shultz said: "The bottom line is this. Those who would cut off these freedom fighters from the rest of the democratic world are in effect committing suicide."

Turn to back page, col. 1

Chernenko too ill to give poll speech

From Martin Walker in Moscow

President Chernenko was too ill to deliver his scheduled election address last night. Foreign Ministry officials said yesterday.

His failure to appear at the traditional eve-of-election meeting in the Kremlin, which will be nationally televised, means that the severity of his illness will now become widely known among the Soviet public. His speech was read for him.

Until two days ago, officials had still hoped that Mr Chernenko would have been fit enough to appear. It is now almost two months since he was last seen in public, and during that time he has failed to make his expected appearance at a number of increasingly important events.

An invalid leader who can still manage to make formal appearances at the major occasions of state is one thing; in the last years of Mr Brezhnev's rule, and under both Mr Andropov and Mr Chernenko, the Soviet system had grown accustomed to that.

But there are two dates looming later this year which would be almost unthinkable without the leader's presence. The first is the fortieth anniversary of victory in the second world war to be held

Chernenko too ill to give poll speech

From Martin Walker in Moscow

President Chernenko was too ill to deliver his scheduled election address last night. Foreign Ministry officials said yesterday.

His failure to appear at the traditional eve-of-election meeting in the Kremlin, which will be nationally televised, means that the severity of his illness will now become widely known among the Soviet public. His speech was read for him.

Until two days ago, officials had still hoped that Mr Chernenko would have been fit enough to appear. It is now almost two months since he was last seen in public, and during that time he has failed to make his expected appearance at a number of increasingly important events.

An invalid leader who can still manage to make formal appearances at the major occasions of state is one thing; in the last years of Mr Brezhnev's rule, and under both Mr Andropov and Mr Chernenko, the Soviet system had grown accustomed to that.

But there are two dates looming later this year which would be almost unthinkable without the leader's presence. The first is the fortieth anniversary of victory in the second world war to be held

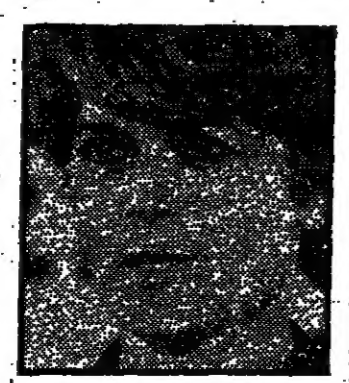
Ferraro goes commercial

From Michael White in Washington

Mrs Geraldine Ferraro, the obscure New York congresswoman who won national celebrity after she was chosen to run a doomed but courageous bid for the vice-presidency, has made a 30-second television commercial for Diet Pepsi. The reported fee was more than \$500,000.

This is only a tenth of what the pop star, Michael Jackson, was making when his hair caught fire during the shooting of a Pepsi commercial last year. But the disclosure, which comes in a week when Mrs Ferraro's husband, John A. Zaccaro, was sentenced to 150 days' community service for fraudulent real estate dealings, has prompted speculation that she is cashing in on her political fame and ruining her chances of a comeback.

It also serves to underline the extent to which the packaging of American politicians



Geraldine Ferraro — opting out?

elective police chiefs, and even judges in some states, is so close to the slick world of TV that the move is a natural one.

In Mrs Ferraro's Pepsi ad, filmed at her home in Queens, New York, under her own "artistic control," the two-term congresswoman is seen chatting with her grown-up daughters about career choices open to women, including motherhood—a frequent theme of her speeches when campaigning with Mr Mondale against President Reagan last year.

She is not identified in the commercial, nor is the number two soft drink firm's market research confirms what Mr Mondale thought about Mrs Ferraro's appeal, even if white male voters disagreed.

But some advisers apparently felt that she would be wise sticking to the lecture tour—where she can command \$20,000 a night—rather than work for Pepsi or give hostages to fortune by writing her \$1 million memoirs, due to be completed by April.

Chernenko too ill to give poll speech

From Martin Walker in Moscow

President Chernenko was too ill to deliver his scheduled election address last night. Foreign Ministry officials said yesterday.

His failure to appear at the traditional eve-of-election meeting in the Kremlin, which will be nationally televised, means that the severity of his illness will now become widely known among the Soviet public. His speech was read for him.

Until two days ago, officials had still hoped that Mr Chernenko would have been fit enough to appear. It is now almost two months since he was last seen in public, and during that time he has failed to make his expected appearance at a number of increasingly important events.

An invalid leader who can still manage to make formal appearances at the major occasions of state is one thing; in the last years of Mr Brezhnev's rule, and under both Mr Andropov and Mr Chernenko, the Soviet system had grown accustomed to that.

But there are two dates looming later this year which would be almost unthinkable without the leader's presence. The first is the fortieth anniversary of victory in the second world war to be held

in Red Square on May 9, which is being planned as the grandest ceremonial occasion for years.

The second, and far more important for the Soviet system, is the twenty-seventh Communist Party congress, which is due to be held in October or November this year. This congress, which will set the nation's course for years to come, would be like Hamlet without the prince in the absence of the party leader.

These considerations provide the basis for speculation which has been washing around Moscow in recent days that an honourable retirement for Mr Chernenko is now under consideration. It would be the first such orderly transition of the Soviet state had ever made: all Soviet leaders have hitherto died in office, save Mr Khrushchev, who was dispatched on a modest pension as a result of a Kromy court-martial.

The lack of precedent for such a transition makes it inherently unlikely, but the alternative of soldiering on with an absentee leader could well seem even worse.

In this context, it may be significant that Mr Gorbachev has in recent days strengthened his position as the heir apparent. When he delivered his election address on Wednesday another Politburo member, Mr Victor Grishin, and two of the most powerful central committee secretaries, Mr Nikolai Ryshkov in charge of the economic department, and Mr Egor Ligachev, head of the party's organising department, stood in his entourage.

This is a signal honour, and Western observers have contrasted this with the relatively low-ranking treatment given to the election address of Mr Romanov, the former Leninist party chief who is usually seen as Mr Gorbachev's main rival for the succession.

Picture, page 6

Next week

Monday

DREAM TIMES
Dreams of fun and freedom never seemed closer to reality than in the Sixties. Ann Shearer examines the Changing Image of Women

FREEDOM TO CONFUSE
Freedom of information US-style means the truth disappears beneath a mountain of paper. The Media Page Investigates

ROYAL VIEWS
Prince Charles is outspoken about buildings he dislikes. Guardian Arts

Tuesday

TUNING IN
From dolphins to woks, business in booming. Education Guardian reports on educational broadcasting

CALL OF THE WILD
In Papua New Guinea they hail her as an honorary man. But Christina Dogwell knows that a girl's best friend is her horse. Guardian Women

Wednesday

MECHANICAL VIRTUES
Who would want a computer which fell in love? Mary Midgley on motives and machines in Body and Soul

BODY WORK
Muscles needn't be macho. Guardian Women takes a look at Charlotte Atlas and the knock-out women

NEW IMPROVED RATES

£10,008 SCHOOL FEES FOR JUST £3,012

Making one payment for a Save & Prosper School Fees Capital Plan now, can produce considerable savings on future fees. For example, at current rates, £3,012 invested now would secure guaranteed payments totalling £10,008 for five years from 1995.

Furthermore you will have no personal liability to tax in connection with payments from your Plan.

For a free quotation and full details of the Plan, FREEPOST the coupon or phone Jane Livermore on 0708-66966. Alternatively, consult your professional adviser.

The Save & Prosper School Fees Capital Plan is recommended by the Independent Schools Information Service.

SCHOOL FEES CAPITAL PLAN

To: Jane Livermore, Save & Prosper, FREEPOST, Romford RM1 1BR.

Please send me full details of the Save & Prosper School Fees Capital Plan, and let me know what it would cost now to provide fees, increasing at 7% each year from September 19... until July 19... Amount of first term's payment £...

Name (Mr/Mrs) _____
Child's Name _____
Address _____
Postcode _____
Telephone (Home) _____ (Business) _____

SAVE & PROSPER

INSIDE	
Arts, reviews	12
Bridge, chess	18
Business & finance	20-25
Crosswords	23, 30
Grassroots	9
Home News	2, 3, 30
Letters	14
Overseas News	6-8
Sports News	15-18
Travel	11
TV & RADIO	28
ENTERTAINMENTS	10, 26
PERSONAL	25, 29

HOME NEWS

NUM area says working miners have broken rules

Durham wants court to lift expulsions ban

By Patrick Wintour, Labour Staff

The Durham area miners' union will next month ask the High Court to lift an injunction banning the union from expelling working miners.

Nine Durham miners employed by a private drift mine, the Crookhall coal company, near Consett won an injunction at an ex parte hearing in July, banning their expulsion for working.

But according to the men's solicitor, Mr John Flynn, the nine were expelled by the Durham area on December 19. A further injunction was granted at an ex parte hearing on January 11, restraining the area union from disciplining the men.

The Durham area on Thursday applied for a discharge of the injunction, and the High Court will hear the case on March 4.

The union said yesterday that the 178 miners have been expelled. A further 40 cases are pending. The men are being expelled under the area union's rule 39, which is a replica of the national disciplinary rule 51, declared invalid by the national union's delegate conference in July.

The Vice-Chancellor, Sir Robert Megarry, declared the changes invalid on the grounds that the Durham area had not had sufficient time to consider its delegates' proposals. Rule 51 was subsequently passed again, without legal challenge, by a second delegate conference held on August 10.

Under the rule, any miner who is expelled by the area union is deemed to have committed an offence which may be detrimental to the interests of the nation.

Solicitors acting for the area union said yesterday that they were seeking a discharge of the injunction and that there is a lawful strike in the Durham area and that the miners have crossed picket lines in breach of union rules.

The Durham rules do not require the union to hold own individual ballots before a strike. The union claims that the strike is an area strike officially sanctioned under national rule 41, ballot, as required under the national union rule 43.

The area union says that 1,800 National Union of Mineworkers members are working. The National Coal Board puts the figure at 4,825.

One miner, Ian Barwick, from Appleton pit, has appealed against his expulsion to the union's national appeal committee. The appeal was established under rule 51.

Mr Barwick's solicitor, Mr Bill Taylor, said yesterday: "We believe it is better to seek common sense through the union's internal machinery, instead of rushing to the courts."

Another expelled miner, Mr Brian Dawson, works at the Wearmouth colliery. His solicitors have been seeking legal aid to bring proceedings for his reinstatement, but Mr Dawson agreed yesterday to be fined.

Coal ship defiance by seamen

Seamen in the North-east yesterday took unofficial action to delay the departure of three ships laden with coal for power stations on the Thames.

Stephenson Clarke, the shipowner, had been hoping yesterday to break the coal blockade which has prevented the movement of the coal by ship since the miners' strike began, after winning a High Court injunction on Monday instructing the National Union of Seamen to withdraw official backing for the strike.

Members of the National Union of Seamen opened only three of the four hatches to allow coal to be loaded by dockers. As a result, the ships became unbalanced and unable to get sail. The ships are the Fulborough and Styring, berthed at Blyth, and the Wilmington, docked at Jarrow.

On Thursday dockers — members of the Transport and General Workers' and the Stevedoring and Wharfmen and the National Union of Railwaymen on the Fulborough started to load after telling the shipowners they were prepared to break the blockade. The seamen responded by opening three of the hatches, but refusing to open the fourth.

The High Court ruled on Monday that the seamen were taking unlawful secondary action in support of the miners and instructed the NUS to withdraw official backing for the strike. The NUS complied with the injunction, but the seamen decided to continue unofficial action.



Sir Robert Megarry — changes involved

nanced by the National Working Miners Committee. The expulsions may have caused some embarrassment to the national union. The president, Mr Arthur Scargill, and the general secretary, Mr Peter Heathfield, have attempted to soothe fears in working areas that miners will not be expelled under rule 51 simply for going to work.

However, the expulsions in the Durham area are a real test of the national union's resolve. The national union cannot stop. There have also been expulsions by the South Wales area and Durham Mechanics.

Wholesale expulsions will not only destroy the de facto closed shop in the industry, but also substantially reduce subscriptions to the union.

Mr David Negus, the solicitor co-ordinating the legal activities of the National Working Miners Committee, said yesterday that the committee would step up attempts to make members of the union's national executive personally liable for the £200,000 contempt fine imposed on the union last September.

The committee is also awaiting council's opinion on the possibility of forcing Mr Scargill to face re-election as president under the Trade Union Act, 1984.

Under the act, any voting member of a union's principal executive committee must be subject to re-election in a secret ballot of the whole membership every five years. But Mr Scargill does not have a regular vote on the executive and may not be covered by the terms of the act.

David Hughes writes: Social security commissioners have dismissed a case brought by Mr Nicholas Bland, a striking Nottinghamshire miner, that the Department of Health was not entitled to deduct £16 a week from supplementary benefit paid to striking miners' families. Mr Bland, who was advised by the Child Poverty Action Group, is now considering taking his case to the Court of Appeal.

Two Scottish miners, Mr Robert Laird and Mr Daniel Devine, lost a case at a striking appeals tribunal over family income supplement payments to their wives. They are now considering an appeal to the commissioners.

Willis to boycott rally

Mr Norman Willis, the TUC secretary, has rejected an invitation to speak at Sunday's demonstration in London in support of the miners. The Trafalgar Square afternoon rally is to be addressed by Mr Arthur Scargill.

Mr Peter Heathfield, Mr Jim Morrison, the chairman of the Labour Party, and a series of left of centre trade union general secretaries.

The invitation to speak had been extended by the march organisers before the row had blown up over the role of Mr Willis and the TUC liaison team.

Mr Willis rejected a series of requests for interviews yesterday.

Challenge by solicitor holds up Yorkshire trial

A committal hearing against 26 Yorkshire miners was unexpectedly delayed yesterday when a defence solicitor refused to accept the new style of committal proceedings, and said he wanted an opportunity to challenge evidence.

The case was adjourned by Pontefract magistrates court until March 3 so that a date for a full length committal can be fixed as soon as possible.

The miners are charged with riotously assembling together to assault Mr Michael Fletcher, a working miner from Aire, and a constable last November. Some of the men also face charges of causing grievous bodily harm, actual bodily harm, and of having offensive weapons — pickaxe handles — in their possession. Charges

Christians prepare for struggle

Martyn Halsall looks at the Church Militant and James Naughtie reports on the latest Church-State clash

THE newest national Christian magazine is called *Struggle*. On its front cover is a photograph of Father Christmas under police arrest in central London after collecting money for the families of striking miners.

To the 10,000 Christians whose 26 organisations compose the radical Christian Organisations for Social, Political and Economic Change (Cospec), such arrests are prophetic. The policies of Mrs Thatcher, they say, produce "an inevitable sharpening of social conflict and an increasing state violence."

Its ultimate symbol is the coal dispute. The Christian cannot be impartial, says the Cospec gospel. "We act from love and anger, and we take sides. This means opposition to the Police Bill, the Nationality Act, the proposed abolition of metropolitan councils and reduced social services."

"We have a responsibility, along with all members of the left, to unite in opposition to this Government and promote peace and justice," said *Struggle* magazine. Those looking for the sharp end of the debate about church and politics need go no further.

As new readers were dipping into *Struggle*, Mrs Thatcher was opening a letter from the senior council of the United Reformed Church, signed by the denomination's general secretary, the Rev Bernard Thorogood. It told the Prime

Minister that tax increases were preferable to her government's "deplorable" failure to support the World Bank special fund for those starving in Africa.

As Mrs Thatcher gave her first interview in Washington, 50 members of Catholic Peace Action held a service opposite the Ministry of Defence to pray for the peace of the world. There were four arrests.

Nowhere have church and politics collided more ferociously than in the Church of England. The established Church, and particularly a minority of its bishops, have been attacked for questioning nuclear weapons, defying Falklands jihadism and generally judging government policies. At the outer edges of an escalating debate there have been murmurs of

disestablishment. The most urgent issue for the Church "is to examine the function and role of politics and the political situation," said the Bishop of London, Dr Graham Leonard.

"Until we get that right, we shall go on in the unsatisfactory way that some people are regarded as non-Christian." Stung by jokes about being "Mrs Thatcher's lap-dog" and pointing to his House of Lords voting record against the Government on major issues, Dr Leonard nevertheless disavows the monopolisation of compassion in church by the Christian Left.

"I have the feeling that it has arisen because of the underlying assumption that Leftwing policies have a monopoly of being kind and compassionate," he said. The

church must be involved in political issues but not be identified with political parties. "This does raise problems for responsible people in the church... I do not believe bishops or parish priests should be publicly committed to a particularly party."

Paradoxically — its critics would say predictably — the General Synod decided recently not to proceed with two matters where collision with the State appeared inevitable. A Church measure (or bill) abolishing Tudor practices confirming the election of bishops is not to be returned to Parliament, following its initial rejection last July.

It was widely felt that when MPs voted during a late night debate by only 32

votes to 17 against the appointment of Bishops Messiaen they were expressing anxieties about Church-State tensions in general, rather than that specific proposal.

Both Mr John Gummer, a synod member for the St Edmundsbury and Ipswich diocese and chairman of the Conservative Party, and Mr Frank Field, Labour MP for Birkenhead and his party's spokesman on church affairs, urged the Church to reserve its appetite for battle for graver occasions.

Both cleared their credentials. Mr Gummer said he spoke as one who has both first and foremost in the Church... and not as the delegate or representative of anywhere or anybody else. (The synod is increasingly sceptical of affairs "across the road" in another Westminster debating chamber).

Mr Field said that when MPs cast their votes on church affairs they were not being "interfering old busy-bodies" but people "with a real love for the Church."

Later the synod adjourned a debate on cruise and Trident missiles. But immediately afterwards it became clear that leading questions will be pressed on the Government by church leaders concerned about nuclear disarmament. There will be increasing intolerance towards evasion.

And in April Cospec has "conflict" at the top of its agenda.

Bus minister attacks bishop

The Bishop of Durham, the Right Rev. David Jenkins, found himself under fire again last night from another Government minister, this time over his criticism of the Transport Bill to deregulate bus services.

Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Transport Secretary, was responding to the bishop's sugges-

tion that the bill could harm the poor and widen the gap between different areas of the country. He said: "I am concerned that you seem to feel it right to add fuel to the feeling of alienation between the North and the South. If reconciliation is to be achieved, then steps in the right direction have to be acknowledged and welcomed."

He said the bishop had misunderstood the bill which would still allow local authorities to provide concessionary fares and did not affect total levels of subsidy.

Cross-subsidy was effectively a tax on the poor, subsidising other bus travellers on uneconomic routes which tended to be in more prosperous areas.

Delegates back Welsh president

by Paul Heyland

South Wales miners delegates remained loyal to their president yesterday after hearing a report from their president, Mr Emyr Williams, on how the union had "climbed down to the gutter" in its negotiations, only to be treated with contempt by the Government.

At a meeting at Bridgend in Mid-Glamorgan, 300 delegates voted overwhelmingly to endorse the decision of the national delegates conference to continue the strike.

The resolute response to the collapse in peace talks will help boost the union as it struggles to stem the tide back to work in other coalfields. Mr Williams made it clear, however, that he would not allow his 19,000 members to be isolated.

The question of a united return to work without a negotiated settlement was raised by some of the 39 speakers at the conference but was not well supported. Only one lodge did not back the resolution to continue the strike. The lodge objection was based on the fact that they believe there should have been talks, said Mr Williams.

He repeated that the NUM had "compromised to the extreme" on the board's negotiating document. "Many of us felt that we had given too much to the board and I was a most amazed man to find out that this was treated with contempt," he said.

The following document that came at the behest of the prime minister was too hard even for the right-wingers to accept in the NEC.

Mr Williams dismissed the Energy Secretary's rejection of further talks. "The Minister said there will be no more talks on about 10 occasions," Mr Williams said economic and public pressure would force them to talk.

The delegates had emphasised they would not return to work without all the miners who had been sacked during the dispute.

Mr Terry Thomas, the area vice-president, said the next seven days were crucial for the union. It had to get the explanation across to members that the board's latest document were no worse than those presented last weekend.

Union leaders will be keeping a special eye on a mass meeting today of miners from South Cymru colliery, near Newbridge, Gwent, where there is pressure for a return to work.

The board claimed that 508 miners, representing less than 3 per cent of the workforce, had reported for duty in South Wales yesterday.

of besetting and causing an affray have been withdrawn by the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Mr Alan Craig, who represents most of the miners, said that he would not accept a short form committal in which papers relating to the case are handed in instead of evidence being examined. If the men were to stand trial in a crown court on the evidence handed to the court so far, he wanted an opportunity to challenge it.

Three other solicitors in the case said they would have been in a position to proceed, and had expected the short form committal proceedings to be dealt with yesterday.

Mr Ian Stamp, prosecuting, said that the DPP in London was anxious that the case should be heard as soon as possible.



The Princess of Wales is overwhelmed by flowers as crowds gather to meet her in Cirencester, Gloucestershire yesterday. The Princess earlier visited a police station.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Heseltine's bylaw plan

BYLAWS will be drawn up on Monday to make it an offence for unauthorised persons to enter the cruise missile bases at Molesworth and Greenham Common, writes James Naughtie.

The Defence Secretary, Mr Michael Heseltine, is using his powers under the Military Lands Act 1952 to make the bylaws under which any unauthorised person entering the defined area or interfering with Crown property — including the security fences — faces a maximum penalty of £100.

Spraggett moves into clear lead

THE Commonwealth chess champion, Kevin Spraggett, continued to defy his British challengers at London docks yesterday where another victory gave him a clear overall lead.

Spraggett defeated King, and has now six points. Next are Littlewood 5½, Orr (Ireland), Chandler, Hodgson, Nunn and Speelman all 5. There are four rounds to go.

Murder charge

A MAN has been charged with the murder of Adam Sedgwick, the son-in-law of the Marquess of Normandy. Desmond Kavanagh, 23, a labourer, of Aisling Avenue, Fulham, will appear at West London magistrates court today.

Royal desk

A BIZARRE Victorian writing desk presented in 1870 to Princess Alexandra of Denmark, to celebrate her marriage to the Prince of Wales, was sold at Sotheby's yesterday for £31,900. It is made of ebony, rosewood, limewood, sandalwood, walnut, and tulipwood, and is decorated with ivory, mother-of-pearl, turquoise and ormolu.

Author's ashes

THE ashes of the author, J. B. Priestley, will go to tiny Huddersfield, where he was born, and to his home in North Yorkshire. His widow, Mrs Jacquetta Priestley, of Kissing Tree House, Alveston, Warwickshire, said: "He loved the Dales and was particularly fond of the church."

Disaster flats 'need £2 bn for repairs'

By Tom Sharrett

Local authority representatives said yesterday that extra investment of £2 billion over the next five years was needed to solve the "disaster" of the dock-access flats system built in the 1960s. This form of building makes use of mass-produced units fitted together on site.

More than 350 people, councillors, council officers and tenants attended a conference called by Manchester city council. Low-price dock-access blocks were widely encouraged by central government 20 years ago but with them came dampness, vermin, vandalism, and the fear of violence. The conference was held on Manchester's Hulme estate which has the city's biggest concentration of dock-access.

The conference declared: "The government should accept that an extra £2 billion needs to be found to deal specifically with dock-access housing over the next five years and accept also that the only way local authorities and can meet this demand for investment is by central government providing a substantial proportion of the money in grant aid."

Sensitive management and an effective repair service were essential. "Central government should help with the extra running expenses now as well as with major capital investment projects."

Mr Ted Cantle, assistant secretary (housing) of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, said that, in some cases, demolition and replacement was the only solution, but in others repair and modification might be acceptable.

"Either way we reckoned the average cost of these works will be about £10,000 per dwelling at today's prices. The total cost for all the different sorts of system-built housing in this country — 500,000 dwellings — will be at least £5 billion. We do not know the exact figure, but there may be 300,000 dock-access buildings nationally."

"Of all the system built housing, dock-access is by far the worst for the tenants. Because of the need to do something quickly I would say that at least £2 billion needs to be spent on dock-access estates over the next five years."

But dock-access was only one of several major housing problems. "Other sectors of the stock are in danger of irreversible deterioration and the Government must not try to solve the problem of dock-access by diverting resources from one problem to another."

Mr Jeff Hooker, Labour's housing spokesman, said: "By any standards the politics of mass housing in the post war years has not helped the tenant. Central government, virtually bribed local councils to use system-building techniques for mass housing."

"Now we have such large-scale failures in so short a time, it is an abuse of the relationship between central government and local government for resources to be withheld from councils trying to tackle the problem."

Mr Jeff Hooker, Labour's housing spokesman, said: "By any standards the politics of mass housing in the post war years has not helped the tenant. Central government, virtually bribed local councils to use system-building techniques for mass housing."

Mr Jeff Hooker, Labour's housing spokesman, said: "By any standards the politics of mass housing in the post war years has not helped the tenant. Central government, virtually bribed local councils to use system-building techniques for mass housing."

Mr Jeff Hooker, Labour's housing spokesman, said: "By any standards the politics of mass housing in the post war years has not helped the tenant. Central government, virtually bribed local councils to use system-building techniques for mass housing."

Mr Jeff Hooker, Labour's housing spokesman, said: "By any standards the politics of mass housing in the post war years has not helped the tenant. Central government, virtually bribed local councils to use system-building techniques for mass housing."

Mr Jeff Hooker, Labour's housing spokesman, said: "By any standards the politics of mass housing in the post war years has not helped the tenant. Central government, virtually bribed local councils to use system-building techniques for mass housing."

Mr Jeff Hooker, Labour's housing spokesman, said: "By any standards the politics of mass housing in the post war years has not helped the tenant. Central government, virtually bribed local councils to use system-building techniques for mass housing."

Mr Jeff Hooker, Labour's housing spokesman, said: "By any standards the politics of mass housing in the post war years has not helped the tenant. Central government, virtually bribed local councils to use system-building techniques for mass housing."

Mr Jeff Hooker, Labour's housing spokesman, said: "By any standards the politics of mass housing in the post war years has not helped the tenant. Central government, virtually bribed local councils to use system-building techniques for mass housing."

Mr Jeff Hooker, Labour's housing spokesman, said: "By any standards the politics of mass housing in the post war years has not helped the tenant. Central government, virtually bribed local councils to use system-building techniques for mass housing."

Labour call for 'guerrilla action'

By John Carvel, Local Government Correspondent

London's 10 rate-capped Labour councils should throw themselves into the struggle against the Government by opening up a "second front" in support of the miners, Mr John McDonnell, deputy leader of the GLC, writes in the latest issue of *London Labour*.

He wrote that if right-wingers on the Labour group "betray" its obvious stance of refusing to do a rate, then GLC councillors should back speaking out, and continue to push funds out to the Labour boroughs.

Mr McDonnell, an anti-rate-capping GLC councillor, said the rate-capping issue while the leader, Mr Ken Livingstone, concentrates on the campaign against the council's abolition. His article seeks to provide the London left with an alternative view of how the battle will proceed whether or not a decision is taken by the full council on March 7 to defy the law.

In two weeks, the Labour Party in London could make its most vital contribution to the miners' dispute by opening up a second front against the Government on rate-capping, he says.

"On the council's budget day it will be for Labour councillors to decide whether to implement the Government's budget for London involving about £400 million worth of cuts in services and jobs, or to stand firm and refuse to make a cuts budget."

He points out that the London Labour Party conference urged Labour councils to take on the Government and not to do a rate. If London's Labour councils stood together in defiance of the Government's demands for cuts there would be a major constitutional crisis which would make Poplar and Clay Cross look like minor skirmishes.

"It is equally important that comrades apply pressure on those councils who are potentially likely to do a rate."

Mr McDonnell says that Labour councillors have known for two years that this struggle was coming and should have stood down already if they had any doubts. It looked certain that the London Education Authority would stand firm, but only had a majority of four over the Tories. "It would be relatively easy for a few right-wingers on the GLC to go to the full council chamber, even if it is carried in the Labour group."

Mr McDonnell continued: "If the no-rate option is defeated in the GLC council chamber as a result of a betrayal by the right, the left will fall back upon a deficit budget and refuse to allow a budget to go through which entails any cuts."

In the following weeks and months therefore guerrilla warfare will be going on at County Hall as the leadership and left members block any cuts proposals coming before the council committee.

"At the same time we will be pushing GLC funds out to the Labour boroughs, who have stood firm on not making a rate, to ensure that they can continue paying wages for as long as possible."

"The aim of our struggle is exactly the same as that of the miners — to protect jobs, services and our community."

Woman in pub bombings case is released

From Paul Johnson in Belfast

Mrs Annie Maguire, the grandmother of a child who was killed in the 1975 pub bombings in Belfast, was released from prison yesterday.

Mrs Maguire, aged 49, received full remission on her 14-year sentence. A campaign will begin today to clear her name and those of her co-defendants. Patrick Maguire, her husband, two sons, Vincent and Patrick, and brother, Sean Smyth, and a friend, are already free after serving sentences of between five and 14 years.

Another of those convicted of possessing explosives, Giuseppe Conlon, a brother-in-law, died in prison in 1984. Patrick Maguire, who was allowed parole earlier this year, was released from Cookstown Prison in Kent.

The bombs in Woolwich and Guildford killed six people and injured dozens of others. Politicians and churchmen in Northern Ireland have expressed strong reservations about the convictions.

They stem from a confession from one of four men later found guilty of the bombings that he learned to make the devices in "Annie's kitchen."

The prosecution case was based on chromatography tests which revealed tiny traces of explosives from their hands and a kitchen glove found in Mrs Maguire's London home. The glove was carried out by an apprentice who did not keep control samples so no traces could be carried out.

At the trial, the scientist who developed the test said it was unreliable, and later research has cast more doubt on the test.

Similar results could apparently have been obtained from the residue of cigarettes in household cleaning materials. It has long been argued that the Maguire family home was hardly consistent with the offences of which they were convicted. Mr Maguire served in the British army and his wife was a member of a Conservative Association.

Mr Joseph Kennedy, the leader of the Social Democratic and Labour Party, has written to Mrs Thatcher asking that the case be reopened. "The background, personal history and circumstances of each of the accused were completely ignored, consistent with any criminal or violent activity," he said.

Annie Maguire — campaign to prove innocence

Police in South Wales and Ireland are searching for a young boy who is believed to have been taken to Dublin by a man who was living with the child's mother in North, South Wales.

Matthew James Webber, who will be four on Monday, vanished from Cwmbedd, Brecon, early last year. William Evans, 38, a nurse at Pontypool, Mr Evans, who is unemployed, has telephoned Matthew's mother from Dublin.

Police hunt missing boy

Police in South Wales and Ireland are searching for a young boy who is believed to have been taken to Dublin by a man who was living with the child's mother in North, South Wales.

Matthew James Webber, who will be four on Monday, vanished from Cwmbedd, Brecon, early last year. William Evans, 38, a nurse at Pontypool, Mr Evans, who is unemployed, has telephoned Matthew's mother from Dublin.

PMs' visits

The Belgian prime minister, Mr Wilfried Martens, is to visit Britain for talks with Mrs Thatcher on March 2. Downing Street announced yesterday. It was also announced that the Prime Minister of Guyana, Mr Burnham, will visit Britain from April 22-25.

OBITUARY

Hollywood actor

LOUIS HAYWARD, the Hollywood actor whose films included *The Man in the Iron Mask*, and *Son of Monte Cristo*, has died in hospital in Palm Springs, California, aged 75.

He spent the last year of his life fighting cancer, which he attributed to having smoked too many cigarettes. He was married to the British actress, the actress, and society woman, Margaret Morrow, who survives him.

Catalonia poet

SALVADOR ESPINER, Catalonia's best-known poet, died yesterday at the age of 72.

HOME NEWS

Doctors soften stance after leadership rifts over prescriptions curb

Rebuffed BMA ready to help with drug list

By Andrew Veitch, Medical Correspondent

THE British Medical Association is planning privately to cooperate with the Government in drawing up a limited drug list, it emerged yesterday.

Despite the seemingly implacable opposition of the association's GP leaders, Dr Michael Wilson, and Dr John Marks, the BMA is understood to have let it be known in the Department of Health that it would be willing to be represented on the committee which will decide which new products should be included on the approved National Health Service drug list.

The move represents in part an acceptance of political reality. The Government has ridden roughshod over the BMA's objections to the list, and the association can do little about it.

Doctors could rebel by continuing to name banned drugs on NHS prescriptions, but chemists would refuse to dispense them because they would not be reimbursed by the Prescription Pricing Authority.

The BMA also needs to salvage something of its reputation as the most powerful pressure group in the country if its other, arguably more important, campaigns are to succeed. Four concern hospital waiting lists, smoking, confidential treatment of under-16s, and nuclear war.

The BMA's hierarchy has not been united in its opposition to the list though, true, none likes the idea of politicians telling them what drugs to give patients, and none believes the Government's motives are anything other than financial.

But there is unanimity ends. Firstly it is difficult to find a clinical need in the seven therapeutic categories affected that is not met by the expanded list announced on Thursday, which coincides with the most thorough of the hospital limited lists.

Secondly, the list will oblige doctors to use generic names for drugs far more frequently. The BMA is officially in favour of prescribing by generic rather than brand name because it encourages doctors

to think about the contents of the pills they're giving their patients.

The British National Formulary, the handbook published by the BMA and the Pharmaceutical Society, lists drugs by their generic names. Anyone who uses the BNF will have no difficulty operating the limited list, it is argued.

But many GPs still rely on the drug industry's handbook, the handbook published by the BMA and the Pharmaceutical Society, listing drugs by their generic names. Anyone who uses the BNF will have no difficulty operating the limited list, it is argued.

Dr Wilson, chairman of the BMA's GP committee, said yesterday that operating the list would be "a nightmare." Drug firms spend millions on promoting catchy brand names and GPs by and large still use them.

Third, there is the question of cost. The BMA has no wish for its members to be seen as wasters of scarce NHS resources. The list might not

save the £75 million a year claimed by Mr Fowler yesterday, but it will save tens of millions.

Mr Fowler was right when he claimed that savings would increase as more generic alternatives appeared on the market, and as more doctors realised the therapeutic benefits of prescribing generically.

To use Distalgic as an example. From April 1 the brand name will be blacklisted. There will be no point in the manufacturers, the Lilly subsidiary Distal, advertising it by brand name unless the firm want to promote a private prescription. The £10 million a year bill for branded Distalgic alone should be cut considerably.

If a doctor wishes to issue an NHS prescription for the painkiller, he will have to write the generic name on the form. There is as yet no unbranded generic equivalent on the market. No one has considered it profitable to market one. The chemist will therefore dispense Distalgic or one of two almost-equivalent products, Distalgic at a trade price of around £2.40 a hundred; Cosil-

gesic at £1.24, or Dextrogesic at £1.09. The chemist will be reimbursed the price of the drug dispensed.

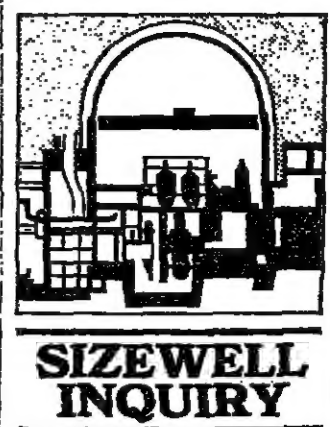
As soon as a generic becomes available (Distal, for example, could stop stamping their brand name on their pills and under Distalgic (the price) the Department of Health will negotiate tariff price with chemists.

The Prescription Pricing Authority will then reimburse the chemist on that drug tariff price, whichever version of the drug he dispenses. If the chemist buys cheaper, he makes a bigger profit—if he buys a dearer product he will make a loss.

There is some quiet satisfaction in the BMA hierarchy and outspoken glo among senior pharmacologists—that a Government has for the first time come to terms with the fact that some firms are marketing drugs that no one needs, and may be positively harmful.

That the list will hit foreign-owned multinationals, and leave most of the big British firms virtually unscathed, is a bonus.

US-style reactors 'no use in making weapons'



SIZEWELL INQUIRY

By David Fairhall

The US style of pressurised-water (PWR) power station which the Central Electricity Generating Board wants to build on the Suffolk coast would not be suitable for making plutonium for US weapons, the Sizewell inquiry was told yesterday.

Counsel for the board, Mr Michael Fitzgerald QC, was answering questions by objectors, particularly CND, that civil plutonium has or will be diverted for military use in the United States. Some objectors also say there is a discrepancy in the Government's accounting of the British plutonium stockpile, and that the expansion of nuclear power would encourage the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

The CEGB did not have a view on whether Britain should possess nuclear weapons, Mr Fitzgerald said. But it did support the principle that the peaceful and military use of nuclear energy should be clearly separated.

The PWR was a poor choice for weapons production, he argued, because it produced relatively low-grade material than Britain's gas-cooled Magnox reactors, and it would have to be shut for refuelling or the clandestine removal of fuel elements, while the plutonium was still pure enough to make a bomb without further treatment.

Mr Fitzgerald admitted that the board could not publicly produce evidence to refute the CND's assertion that several tons of plutonium was unaccounted for and was presumed by the campaign to have gone to the United States for military purposes.

Detailed analysis of the stockpile had been ordered by the Department of Energy on security grounds, because it would enable the CND to revise and improve its estimates of how much had been sent to the United States under the US/UK exchange agreement. Such accuracy "would be inconsistent with security requirements," according to Whitehall.

Mr Fitzgerald referred to the assertion by Lord Hinton that the CEGB's chief steward, Mr John Baker, had told "bloody lies." The assertion was tape-recorded by the CND before Lord Hinton's death last year (and later produced at the inquiry).

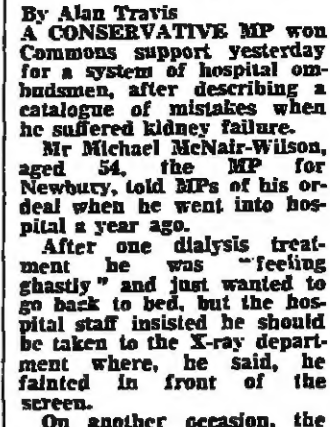
Mr Fitzgerald said the board's former chairman was not in a position to know what happened to the civil plutonium sent to the US because he retired from the post before the export began.

Lord Hinton may have been confused, the board's counsel suggested, by the fact that plutonium from Britain's military reactors was sent to the US for bomb-making in the early 1960s.

Mr Fitzgerald's assurances came at the end of a week when the CEGB has been winding up its safety case for the Sizewell PWR.

The inquiry resumes next Tuesday and is expected to end on March 7.

Kidney patient MP wins backing for bill



By Alan Travis

A CONSERVATIVE MP won Commons support yesterday for a system of hospital outpatients, after describing a catalogue of mistakes when he suffered kidney failure.

Mr Michael McNair-Wilson, aged 54, the MP for Newbury, told MPs of his ordeal when he went into hospital a year ago.

After one dialysis treatment he was "feeling ghastly" and just wanted to go back to bed, but the hospital staff insisted he should be taken to the X-ray department where, he said, he fainted in front of the screen.

On another occasion, the doctors insisted on giving him penicillin even though he warned them he was sensitive to it. The result was a drug rash that kept him in hospital for a further five weeks.

Somewhat also left a stitch in my leg when I had dialysis; it was septic and I suffered from septicemia. To whom do I complain? Who will offer me compensation? Don't anyone really care, or is this just one of the hazards of being in hospital?" Mr McNair-Wilson asked.

Most of the errors arose from a breakdown in communications among the National Health Service staff, yet there was little information easily available to anxious patients about how to complain, sickness benefits, visiting times, or church services, he said.

"While most nurses brought that sympathetic touch and gentleness, there were those who just hustled past and treated us as case histories," he added. "If I was not a son of a doctor, I would have been even more browbeaten by them than was the case."

He said that at no time during his period in hospital did he receive or expect gold-plated treatment because he was an MP.

Last September, as a result of his experiences, he drew up a patients' charter and was dismayed with mail from victims of similar errors.

"In a case like my own I believe I have cause for compensation, but the present procedure is unbelievably drawn out and would probably take years and cost a fortune."

His private member's Hospital Complaints Procedures Bill, which obliges regional health authorities to establish and publicise a complaints procedure at each of their hospitals. It unexpectedly went through all its Commons stages unopposed yesterday and will now go to the Lords.

Mr John Patten, a junior health minister, said the bill would improve present procedure under which 19,000 written complaints were made in 1983, one in every 3,000 patients.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Aids kills blood donor

THE donor whose blood was given to 41 people before he realised he was suffering from AIDS died yesterday at Bournemouth's Royal National Hospital, writes Andrew Veitch.

The man, originally from the Hull area, died of meningitis and pneumonia as a result of the disease. He was later identified as Mr Chris Egner, aged 27, who had been living in Bournemouth before going into hospital.

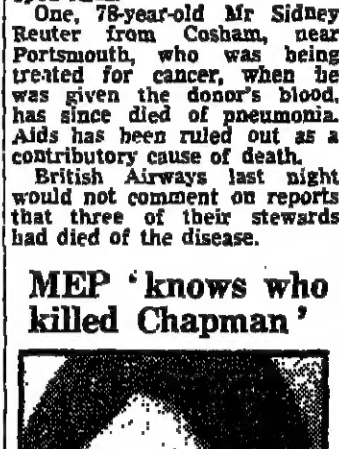
He gave four donations on the South Coast, Bournemouth, and in Yorkshire before being admitted to hospital in October. One donation was used to make the clotting agent Factor 8 and was given to 38 haemophiliacs before being withdrawn.

A second was given to a pregnant mother in Birmingham, and two more went to patients in Bournemouth. Antibodies to the AIDS virus were later found in the mother and her newborn baby, but none of the patients has since developed AIDS.

On 78-year-old Mr Sidney Reuter from Cosham, near Portsmouth, who was being treated for cancer, when he was given the donor's blood, has since died of pneumonia. AIDS has been ruled out as a contributory cause of death.

British Airways last night would not comment on reports that three of their stewards had died of the disease.

MEP 'knows who killed Chapman'



THE MEP Mr Richard Cottrell, claimed yesterday that he knew the identity of the killer of BBC reporter, Ann Chapman, (above) who was murdered in Greece 14 years ago.

"I now know who killed Ann, why they killed her, where and at what time they killed her," he said.

Mr Cottrell, the MEP for Bristol, and the European Parliament last year supported his view that Miss Chapman was killed by the authorities, and not a prison guard Nicholas Mounia, who spent 10 years in jail for conviction of her manslaughter.

Seamen's strike delays ferries

THOUSANDS of passenger ferries were delayed yesterday as seamen staged a 24-hour stoppage at Felixstowe, Suffolk.

Townsend Thoresen had to cancel two ferries to London, while two freight ships bound for Rotterdam and Europe also remained idle.

Members of the National Union of Seamen were backing a national protest against the rights of a living wage, and the rights of the seamen's union, HMS Dreadnought, at Greenwich, London.

Race complaint rejected

THE COLOUR of gangs of black youths allegedly responsible for crimes on a Brixton estate was irrelevant in London Evening Standard report on a telephone vigilante group set up to protect families, the Press Council ruled yesterday.

The council rejected a complaint by Mr R. Barzelle, of Islington, north London, who complained it was improper of the newspaper to report the colour of alleged gang members where this had no relevance to the story, and thus pandering to racist feelings.

Farmers give £1.8m in grain

FARMERS have donated grain worth more than £1.8 million to the Ethiopian famine appeal, and the figure is expected to reach £2 million, the organiser, Mr Oliver Watkinson, said yesterday.

More than 9,000 tonnes have been shipped to Ethiopia and 2,700 tonnes cargo will leave on Monday.

Faulty phone blamed for crash

From Joe Joyce in Dublin

Faulty railway telephone and radio systems were blamed yesterday by an official inquiry for an Irish train crash in which seven people died and 55 were injured in August 1983.

Those who died were on a train going from Tralee to Dublin. It ran out of fuel at Cherryville junction, County Kildare, and the train from Galway crashed into the back of it.

The inquiry exonerated the driver of the Galway train, Mr Peter Brady, who was earlier acquitted in court of manslaughter.

Mr Brady had stopped at a danger signal and tried to contact the controller, but a radio telephone was not working properly. He passed the signal slowly in accordance with railway regulations but collided with the stationary train a short time later.

The inquiry found that the telephone was fitted with a timer which limited the duration of calls and that a radio on board the train was not serviceable.

The driver and the signalman in Dublin had tried unsuccessfully to contact each other by radio. The other train did not have a radio.

The report by a railway inspector, Mr J. V. Feehan, noted that timber bodied coaches were used on the Tralee train although an inquiry into an earlier rail accident had recommended that their use be restricted on mainline trains.

His report recommended rule changes to forbid drivers passing danger signals unless they communicate with a signalman. It also proposed that there be a communication system between drivers and guards on passenger trains.

CIE, the Irish public transport company, has already begun introducing radios linking all locomotives with the control centre in Dublin.



ATHLETIC PILGRIM: The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, yesterday handed letters for the Pope in Rome, for Pope Shenouda (Coptic Orthodox Patriarch in Cairo), and for the Greek Orthodox Patriarch of Jerusalem to Robert Block, aged 23, an ordinand in the Canterbury diocese. He leaves England next Thursday to run to Italy, Egypt and Israel as part of his diocesan effort for International Youth Year.

Picture by Garry Weaser

Hard line on software thieves

By Alan Travis

Geol sentences of up to two years may be imposed on computer software pirates if a private member's bill to extend copyright to computer programs becomes law later this year.

The impact of the pirates had ensured a decline in the British share of the world market. A recent Aston University survey showed that of 27 computer software companies looked at three years ago, 10 had since gone into liquidation because of piracy.

"My bill is designed to make life as difficult as possible for those who copy pirated works and then sell them at a fraction of the proper cost," said Mr Powell.

His bill extends the 1956 Copyright Act to cover computer programs. It provides that anyone caught selling, exhibiting or in possession of pirated software faces fines of up to £2,000 and up to two months' imprisonment. The manufacture, distribution or importing of unauthorised copies would carry an unlimited fine or up to two years' imprisonment.

Extending the act to videos two years ago is estimated to have stopped about two thirds of video piracy.

The present law was pathetically inadequate to cope with the activities of the software pirates who cost the industry an estimated £150 million a year.

The impact of the pirates had ensured a decline in the British share of the world market. A recent Aston University survey showed that of 27 computer software companies looked at three years ago, 10 had since gone into liquidation because of piracy.

"My bill is designed to make life as difficult as possible for those who copy pirated works and then sell them at a fraction of the proper cost," said Mr Powell.

His bill extends the 1956 Copyright Act to cover computer programs. It provides that anyone caught selling, exhibiting or in possession of pirated software faces fines of up to £2,000 and up to two months' imprisonment. The manufacture, distribution or importing of unauthorised copies would carry an unlimited fine or up to two years' imprisonment.

Extending the act to videos two years ago is estimated to have stopped about two thirds of video piracy.

His bill extends the 1956 Copyright Act to cover computer programs. It provides that anyone caught selling, exhibiting or in possession of pirated software faces fines of up to £2,000 and up to two months' imprisonment. The manufacture, distribution or importing of unauthorised copies would carry an unlimited fine or up to two years' imprisonment.

Extending the act to videos two years ago is estimated to have stopped about two thirds of video piracy.

Electricians warn TUC over expulsion threat

By John Ardill, Labour Correspondent

THE electricians' union said yesterday that it was prepared to take the TUC to court over expulsion moves for accepting government funding of election ballots. The threat from the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunications and Plumbing Union general secretary, Mr Eric Hammond, was coupled with a warning that members of other trade unions might switch to the EETPU if the union was thrown out of the movement.

The electricians and the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers have both applied for balloting funds under the 1980 Employment Act, in breach of TUC policy. The TUC will begin disciplinary proceedings as soon as any money is received.

Writing today in his union's journal, Mr Hammond says the TUC is following a "perilous road" which courts disaster. The EETPU executive which was unanimous in deciding there were no good reasons in principle or practice to continue the "futile boycott" of state funds will not be "cajoled, intimidated or bullied into submission."

Mr Hammond agrees with some of the TUC critics that the real issue between them is not the money, the legislation or the policy but the authority of the general council. "I told the TUC candidly and openly that our members elected our executive council to be responsible for the finance and gov-



Eric Hammond: 'We won't be bullied.'

Holidays safe, says Morocco

By Martin Walwright

THE Moroccan Government has sent a commission of inquiry to Agadir, the seaside resort where more than 100 British holidaymakers were turned away by local hoteliers this week. The authorities in Rabat have blamed hotel-keepers for panicking at the prospect of a visit by King Hassan to celebrate national day.

Several British tour firms, including the two biggest package operators, Thomson Holidays and Intasun, were told by hotels that their rooms had been requisitioned by the royal party. The Moroccan minister of tourism, Mr Azeddine Guessas, denied this yesterday and said that all holiday bookings would be met.

The Moroccan national tourist office in London commented: "No instructions were given by the Moroccan authorities to requisition any hotel rooms and allocations taken by the tour operators will be respected."

The tour operators diverted more than 100 holidaymakers to the inland city of Marrakech on Thursday and the Moroccan guarantee fund will reimburse the tour operators in Agadir.

The next regular batch of flights to the resort, which tends to be fully-booked at this time of year, leaves next Thursday when the situation will be clearer.

16 years for hooded rapist

By Martin Walwright

A hooded rapist who terrorised women in a bedsit area of Oxford was jailed for 16 years yesterday. Kevin Kearley, aged 26, had prowled around the district to the east of the city in the early hours on 30 or 40 occasions, Northampton Crown Court was told.

Kearley, unemployed, of Bullington Road, Oxford, admitted one charge of rape, one of indecent assault and one of burglary, all in Oxford last May.

Mr Justice Otton said Kearley had indulged in "a considerable degree of depravity." Although he had shown contrition, psychiatric reports showed he was fully responsible for his actions.

He was jailed for 12 years for rape, two years for the indecent assault and two years for the burglary and other offences. All the sentences will run consecutively.

After raping a 47-year-old woman, Kearley told his victim he would send her a red rose when he cashed his dole cheque. Mr Rumsitt said Kearley was wearing a hat and scarf over his face when he confronted the woman who feared he would murder her. Shortly before the rape, he was wearing a balaclava with eye slits when he carried out "a particularly revolting indecent assault" on a woman in her 30s. Mr Rumsitt said.

Kearley told the court: "My sex life was virtually nonexistent; this wouldn't have happened otherwise."

Declaration for judge

By Martin Walwright

Lord Justice Stephenson, who retired yesterday after 22 years as a judge, was described by a QC in the Appeal Court as "the perfect gentleman in everything you have done."

Mr Patrick Back, QC, was one of three QCs who paid tribute to the 74-year-old Lord Justice.

Lord Justice Stephenson, who retired yesterday after 22 years as a judge, was described by a QC in the Appeal Court as "the perfect gentleman in everything you have done."

Mr Patrick Back, QC, was one of three QCs who paid tribute to the 74-year-old Lord Justice.



Lord Justice Stephenson

Simpler house buying under conveyancing bill

A land registration bill, which was introduced in the Lords by the Lord Chancellor yesterday, will make conveyancing simpler but reduce the rights of cohabitants. The purpose of the short bill is to reduce the difficulty and expense of conveyancing by reducing the inquiries which buyers need to make.

Under the present system, solicitors have to establish whether any person in occupation, other than the legal estate owner or proprietor, holds rights in the property. Under the new procedure which is due to come into effect on January 1, 1986, buyers will only have to make inquiries about the spouse of a sole proprietor.

A cohabitee with a registered interest in the property will not be affected but the rights of cohabitants, who has not registered any interest but has contributed to the upkeep and rehabilitation of a house could be ignored. Other people who could suffer could be brothers or parents-in-law with an interest in the house.

The bill is a response to a House of Lords judgment in 1981 which ruled that purchasers had to investigate the rights of all occupiers of a home in any domestic conveyancing. The government estimate these searches cost home buyers some £1 million a year.

Grimaldi may find a place in limelight

By Martin Walwright

CLOWNS and actors intend to rescue the tombstone of Joseph Grimaldi from a park shed and make it the centrepiece of a new memorial to the man who once sent London theatre audiences wild.

Grimaldi is generally seen as the finest clown in his time, the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

"As a clown he is held to have had no equal," says the Dictionary of National Biography. "His grimace was expressively mirth-moving; his singing of Tippey Witchee, Hot Coddins and other similar ditties, roused the wildest enthusiasm, and with him the days of genuine pantomime drollery are held to have expired."

But Grimaldi never be-

came rich, thanks to foolish or unlucky investments, and his funeral in 1837 was a modest affair. He was buried at St James's in Pentonville Road, north London, the setting for the annual clowns' service until the church was demolished 18 months ago.

The demolition left Grimaldi's tombstone dangerously exposed and it was moved to a graveyard shed for safekeeping. It shares its humble quarters with a pile of bricks, a bucket, and an elderly copy of the Daily Mirror.

The church site is up for sale with planning permission for 14,000 square feet of office space, but the development will not affect the graveyard, which islington has adopted as a park. The actors' union, Equity, supported by the Clowns' Association, has written to the council asking for the park to be dedicated to Grimaldi.

Woman in pub bombings case is released

From Paul Johnson in Belfast

A woman charged with involvement in the pub bombings in Belfast has been released.

She was charged with conspiracy to commit an offence under the Public Order Act 1981.

The woman, who was charged with conspiracy to commit an offence under the Public Order Act 1981, was released.

The woman, who was charged with conspiracy to commit an offence under the Public Order Act 1981, was released.

The woman, who was charged with conspiracy to commit an offence under the Public Order Act 1981, was released.

The woman, who was charged with conspiracy to commit an offence under the Public Order Act 1981, was released.

The woman, who was charged with conspiracy to commit an offence under the Public Order Act 1981, was released.

The woman, who was charged with conspiracy to commit an offence under the Public Order Act 1981, was released.

The woman, who was charged with conspiracy to commit an offence under the Public Order Act 1981, was released.

The woman, who was charged with conspiracy to commit an offence under the Public Order Act 1981, was released.

The woman, who was charged with conspiracy to commit an offence under the Public Order Act 1981, was released.

The woman, who was charged with conspiracy to commit an offence under the Public Order Act 1981, was released.

The woman, who was charged with conspiracy to commit an offence under the Public Order Act 1981, was released.

The woman, who was charged with conspiracy to commit an offence under the Public Order Act 1981, was released.

The woman, who was charged with conspiracy to commit an offence under the Public Order Act 1981, was released.

The woman, who was charged with conspiracy to commit an offence under the Public Order Act 1981, was released.

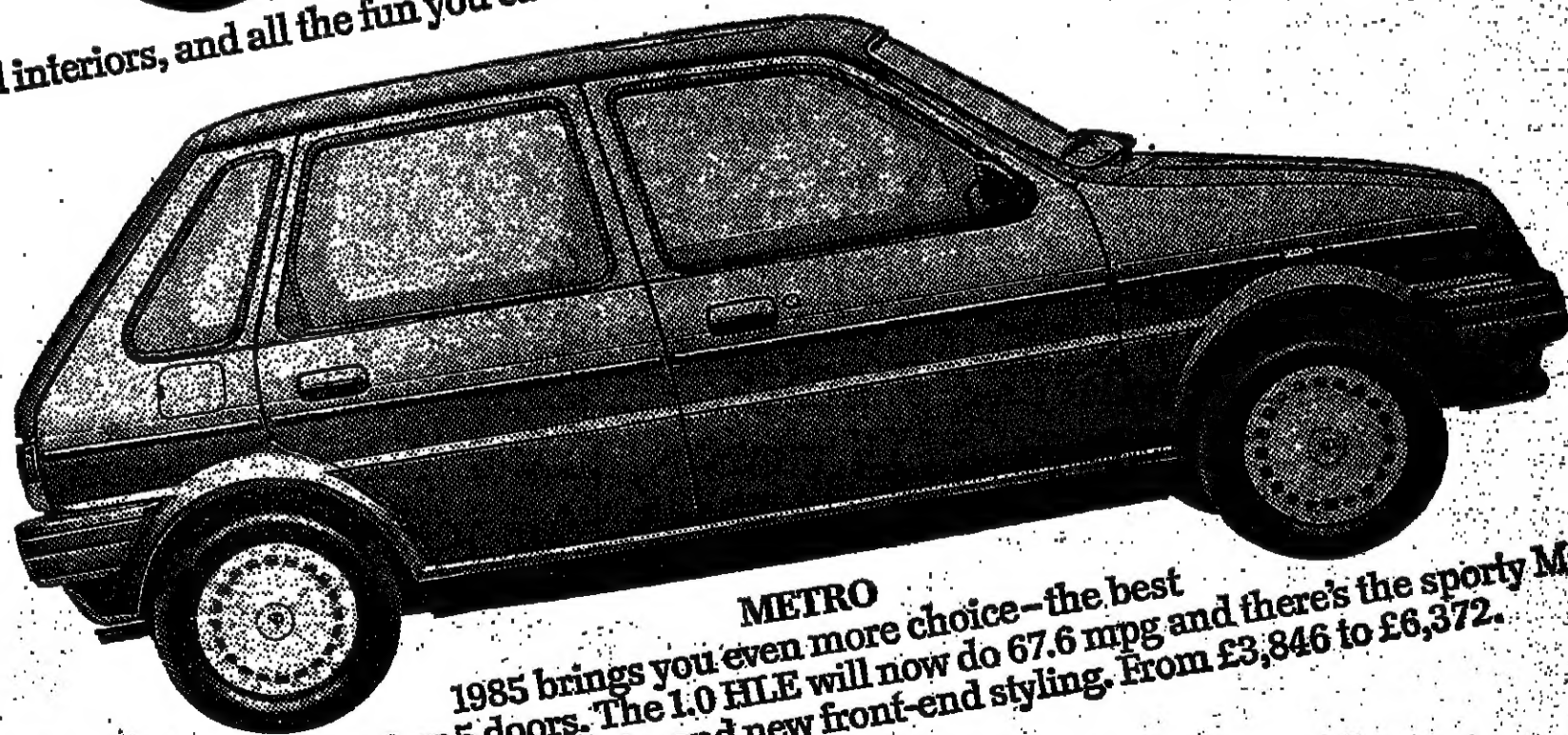
The woman, who was charged with conspiracy to commit an offence under the Public Order Act 1981, was released.

AUSTIN ROVER

Europe's most exciting '85 cars.



MINI
Smart new wheels with front disc brakes,
more refined interiors, and all the fun you can handle in Britain's best-loved small car. From £3,298 to £3,884.

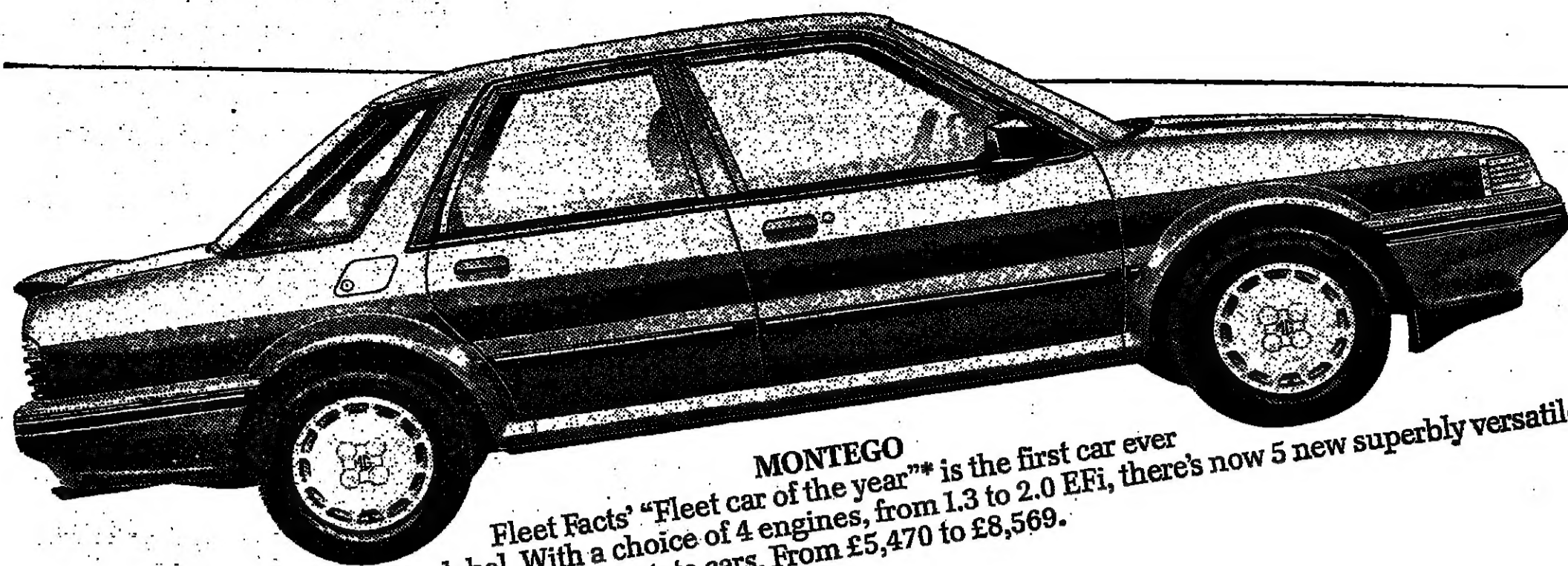


METRO
1985 brings you even more choice—the best
selling British small car has 3 or 5 doors. The 1.0 HLE will now do 67.6 mpg and there's the sporty MG models.
Plus new interiors, new fascia, and new front-end styling. From £3,846 to £6,372.

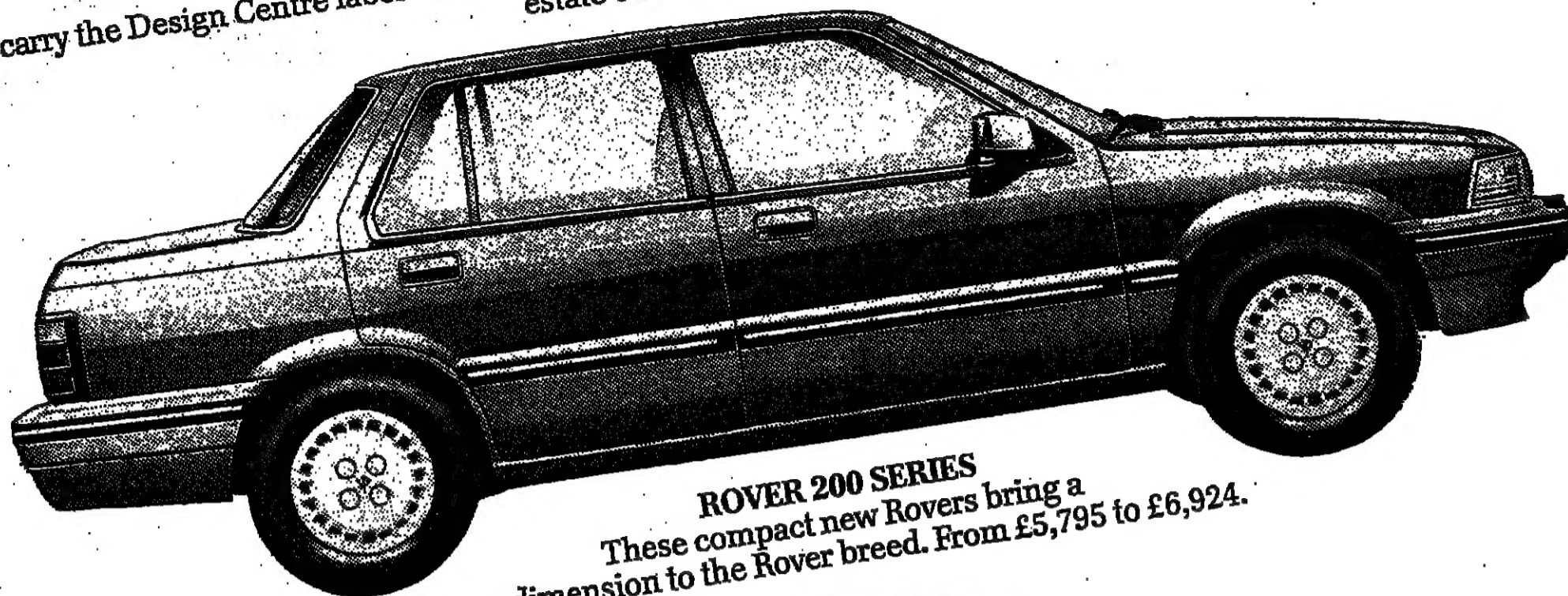


MAESTRO
3 new models for the Maestro range—including the
2 litre fuel-injected MG. Plus new interiors and a wider choice of 5-speed economy.
From £5,093 to £7,280.

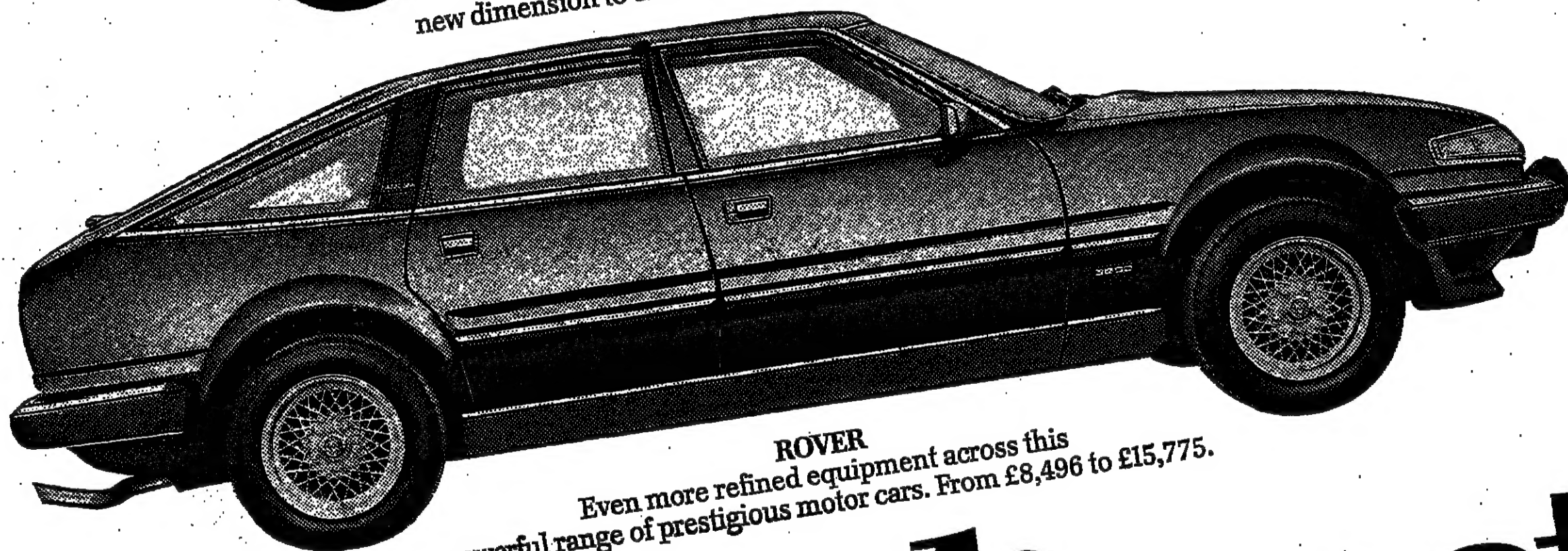
DOT FIGS:
100km/h



MONTEGO
Fleet Facts' "Fleet car of the year" is the first car ever to carry the Design Centre label. With a choice of 4 engines, from 1.3 to 2.0 EFI, there's now 5 new superbly versatile estate cars. From £5,470 to £8,569.



ROVER 200 SERIES
These compact new Rovers bring a new dimension to the Rover breed. From £5,795 to £6,924.



ROVER
Even more refined equipment across this powerful range of prestigious motor cars. From £8,496 to £15,775.

Still dealing at '84 prices.

Not only are the new '85 models from Austin Rover the best ever, but they're still available at 1984 prices. And as if that wasn't value enough, we've given your local Austin Rover dealer the means to offer you massive savings and impressive part-exchange allowances even on these low low prices.

But if you're looking for a new car, you'd better act now. We're only offering this dramatically improved all British-built range at these exceptional prices for a limited period. See your Austin Rover dealer now.



From Austin Rover

DOT Figs: Metro 1.0 HLE simulated urban cycle 43.1 mpg/5.9L per 100km. Constant 56 mph 67.6 mpg/4.2L per 100km. Constant 75 mph 46.4 mpg/6.1L per 100km. Maestro 1.3L (5 speed): simulated urban cycle 37.0 mpg/7.6L per 100 km. Constant 56 mph 58.2 mpg/4.9L per 100 km. Constant 75 mph 40.7 mpg/6.9L per 100 km. Prices correct at time of going to press excluding number plates and delivery. *Fleet Facts December 1984.

Claim of an unrelenting Soviet build-up 'not based on fact'

Soviet arms outlay lower than claimed, says CIA

From Don Oberdorfer in Washington

Soviet defence spending has been growing at about 2 per cent a year since 1976, a slower rate than earlier believed and a much slower rate than overall US defence outlays, according to a CIA report.

In the continuing intelligence dispute, the CIA estimate of Soviet spending also conflicts with a much higher Defence Department estimate last June and with various Pentagon statements citing an unrelenting Soviet build-up as the justification for US military increases.

Sector William Proxmire, the leading Democrat on the Joint Economic subcommittee that released the CIA estimate, said: "It is time for Washington to take official notice that the Soviet Union is not building up its military."

The Prime Minister of New Zealand, Mr David Lange, yesterday said that he had told the Soviet Union to stop meddling in his country's affairs through biased press reporting. Mr Lange said that the Soviet ambassador, Mr Vladimir Rykov, had been told that despite a ban on US nuclear warships, "New Zealand is an unshakeable member of the Western alliance and that our policies are not directed at any of our traditional friends." —AP.

Soviet military procurement has been stagnant for the past seven years and to stop acting like nothing has changed.

"Before 1976, growth in total (Soviet) defence spending had averaged about 4 to 5 per cent per year; after 1976, the rate of increase in spending dropped appreciably, to about 2 per cent a year," Mr Robert Gates, the CIA's deputy director for intelligence, testified to the International Trade, Finance and Security Economics subcommittee in a secret session last November 21.

The CIA testimony, which has since been declassified for public release, said that the slow-down in Soviet military growth was "a stagnation in spending for military procurement since 1976."

This appeared to conflict directly with a Pentagon report last June, which said that Soviet procurement of large weapons systems had increased between 5 and 10 per cent from 1982 to 1983, on the basis of preliminary findings by the Defence Intelligence Agency.

The Pentagon also reported an overall Soviet military spending increase of 3 to 4 per cent during the 1982-3 period.

A Defence Department official testified before the same subcommittee last month on the Pentagon's view of the Soviet military build-up. This testimony has not been cleared for public release, and neither the panel nor the Pentagon would discuss it in detail.

A Defence Department official familiar with the studies said that "nothing has occurred (since last June) to make us want to change" the estimate.

A large-scale revision of the CIA's Soviet military spending estimates, first released in 1983, caused a big controversy between the civilian and military intelligence agencies.

Some of the differences between estimates of the intelligence agencies, specialists said, may flow from differences in their methods of estimating Soviet expenditures.

Until two years ago, the CIA said, the Soviet military spending had been rising steadily since 1965 at an annual rate of 4 to 5 per cent, measured in constant 1970 rubles. In 1983, the CIA shifted to an estimate of about 2 per cent annual growth on the same basis for the post-1976 era. This estimate was confirmed and carried forward through 1983 in the testimony made public on Thursday. —Washington Post.

Call to defend Communist gains

Ustinov's replacement makes first important policy speech

Moscow: Marshal Sergei Sokolov, the Soviet Defence Minister who replaced the late Dmitri Ustinov two months ago, called yesterday for increased vigilance in defence of Communist gains.

Marshal Sokolov made his first important public pronouncement since his appointment in an article in the Communist Party daily, Pravda, in which he attacked US plans for developing a space-based, antimissile defence system but said that Moscow was ready for business-like arms control talks.

"The complicated present-day international situation, which is shaped through the fault of reactionary imperialist circles, necessitates a heightening of the Soviet people's vigilance and of their readiness to rise, arms in hand, at any time in defence of Socialist gains," he wrote.

"The United States and its NATO allies do not abandon attempts to ensure military superiority over the Soviet Union and the other Warsaw Pact countries."

Marshal Sokolov, aged 73, whose appointment was announced on December 22, has been a professional soldier for more than 50 years. He has often dealt with foreign countries seeking to buy Soviet arms.

The marshal does not, however, have the same long background in civilian politics as Marshal Ustinov, who before his death at the age of 76, attained the upper levels of the ruling Politburo.

Referring to President Reagan's Star Wars research plans, Marshal Sokolov said: "The Soviet Union is strongly opposed to the spread of the arms race to outer space, but not because it cannot reciprocate these plans of Washington," he wrote.

Martin Walker adds: The new chief of the Soviet general staff, Marshal Sergei Akhromeyev, has praised the wartime leadership of Stalin, writing in the latest issue of Kommunist, the chief of staff says that Stalin's personal leadership was "a key component of the superiority of Soviet military science."

This is the most important sign so far of Stalin's accelerating rehabilitation, evidently timed to reach its peak in May for the 40th anniversary of VE Day.

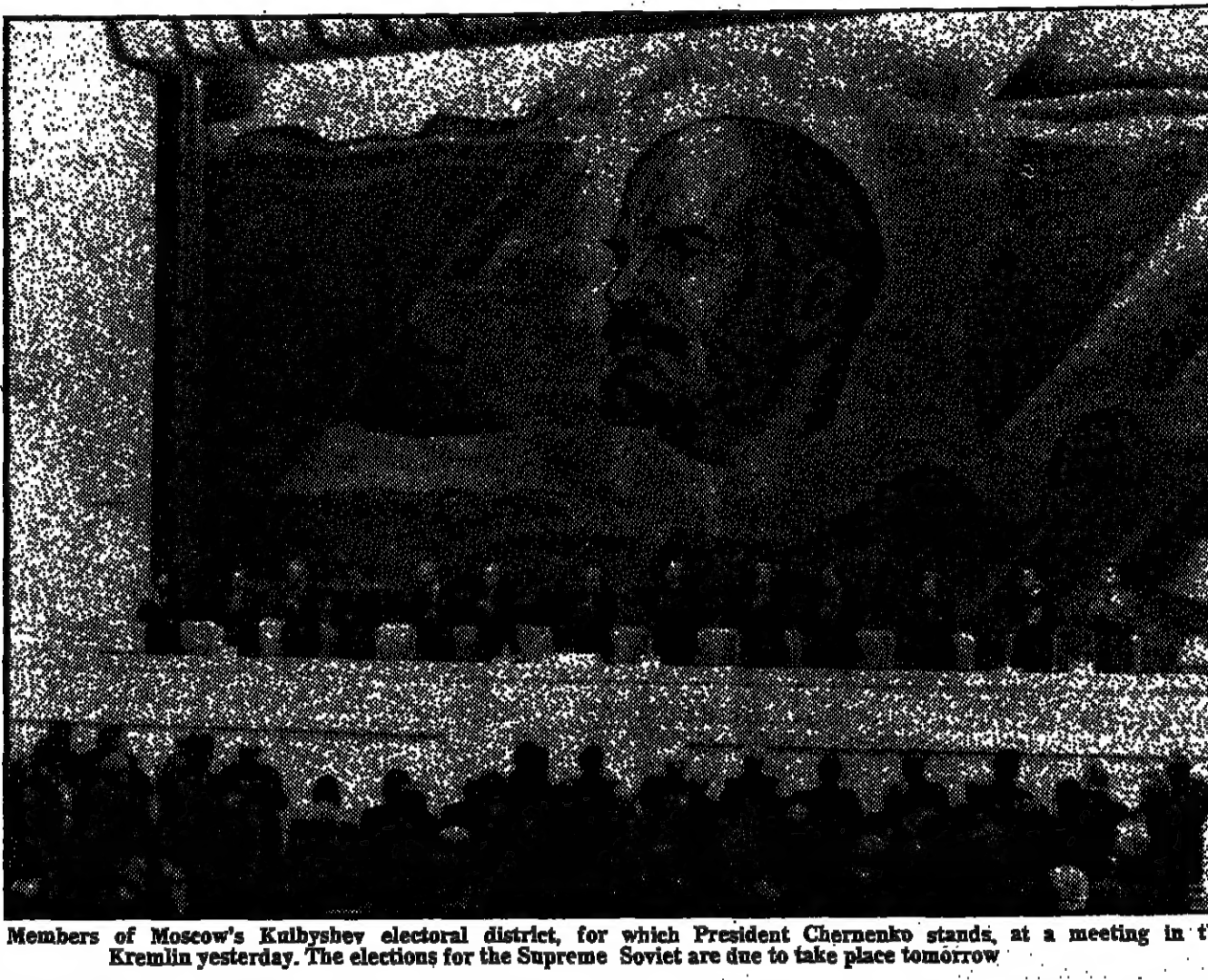
Kommunist has also printed a series of wartime documents, including a number of telegrams and dispatches signed by Stalin and published for the first time.

"One of the major features that characterised Soviet military art during the great patriotic war was the firm and creative management of the strategic activities of our troops and navy by the supreme HQ, and by the commander-in-chief, Joseph Stalin, in person," Marshal Akhromeyev writes.

"The successful execution of many of our battles was made possible only by the intensive work and great commanding talent at headquarters," he adds.

Khrushchev's campaign of "de-Stalinisation" after 1956 exposed Stalin's shortcomings as a war leader. In particular, Khrushchev claimed that Stalin had gone into a state of shock during the first weeks of the German invasion, and failed to provide any effective leadership at all. Marshal Zhukov, a well-known battlefield commander, criticised Stalin in his memoirs for interfering even in small-scale military operations.

This has all changed and a petition from the Volgograd War Veterans Association, asking that their city be restored to its old wartime name of Stalingrad, is still being considered by the Central Committee. Marshal Akhromeyev's article makes it much more likely that the name of Stalingrad will soon reappear on Soviet maps.



Members of Moscow's Kaluzhskiy electoral district, for which President Chernenko stands, at a meeting in the Kremlin yesterday. The elections for the Supreme Soviet are due to take place tomorrow

Bootless Russians losing cold war

From Martin Walker in Moscow

WITH THE Soviet Union gripped by one of the fiercest winters for years, a crisis has emerged in one of the country's main defences against the cold. There is a valenki shortage.

Valenki are the huge boots made of pressed felt that have kept Russian feet warm since long before the days of Peter the Great. In Moscow, they are usually to be seen on the feet of the policemen and there are standard issue in the Red Army. But the supply is running out.

There are none to be had in the Siberian cities of Novosibirsk and Krasnoyarsk, where temperatures have fallen to almost 50 C below, according to Komsomolskaya Pravda. Although a new pair of valenki in the state shops should cost about £15, the black market price for valenki is £50 in Vladivostok, and up to £120 in the Siberian city of Omsk.

Eighty per cent of the country's valenki are produced by a single organisation, Rosvalprom, which has acknowledged it can meet less than half of the demand from the state retail system.

To meet the demand, the long-haul art of homemade valenki has undergone a remarkable revival, spurred by the high prices the boots can fetch.

The psychological impact of a valenki shortage upon the Russian mind could hardly be exaggerated. They are quintessentially Russian, as much a part of the Russian psyche as the kilt is of the Scots. One folk song has a chorus with a girl telling her admirer: "Don't bother with presents and flowers, just buy me some valenki."

They are also the most effective winter footwear yet invented. They look big and clumsy, reaching up the knees, but they are remarkably light to wear. Naturally, they are very warm.

With this year's winter bringing blizzards as far south as Armenia, demand has never been so high.

"You might have heard stories of the poor life of people in the distant past, when they were so poor that they could afford only one pair of valenki for the whole family," a woman from Siberia wrote to Komsomolskaya Pravda yesterday. "We are no longer poor, but the valenki shortage has not changed, the only person in our family with valenki is my grandmother. Our eight-year-old son has to wear them to go out, even though they are twice too big. We have been trying to buy some since August, trying city after city in Siberia, but there are no valenki."

"What if we carry out an unusual experiment?" Komsomolskaya Pravda suggests. "What if we asked the Ministry of Light Industry to pay for all the sick leave of people who caught colds and are in Siberia? And then use the money to buy valenki for whoever needs them."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Reagan in US bases mix-up

PRESIDENT Reagan yesterday denied that the US is preparing plans for a withdrawal of military bases from Greece because of growing anti-Americanism there.

A few hours before Mr Reagan made his denial, two of his top officials told a congressional hearing that the Administration was exploring alternative Mediterranean locations for the bases. It was not clear how the confusion arose. —Reuter.

Cent back

A man who delivered two 35-gallon drums of pennies to his ex-wife was ordered by a Stamford, Connecticut judge to take the pennies back and write her a cheque.

Frank Colandro, aged 26, who had delivered the pennies as the first payment in a divorce settlement, was told they were not legal tender. "Why do they make them if you can't pay anybody off with them?" he asked. —AP.

Spiked

THE bayonet, used on battlefields for centuries, can no longer be considered a weapon of war, Italy's Supreme Court ruled yesterday.

It rejected prosecution demands that a man found in possession of a bayonet should receive the severest penalty for illegal possession of "battlefield weapons" on the grounds that the bayonet is obsolete. —Reuter.

Shorter ballot

VOTING will be a little easier than expected next month in the south Indian electoral district of Belagavi. The field of candidates has been reduced from 301 to five. A local writers' group which had nominated 296 of its members to publicise accusations about electoral fraud, yesterday pulled all its candidates out of the race. —Reuter.

Rebel raid

TWO guerrillas were shot dead and more than 1,000 people detained in Lima on Thursday night after Shining Path rebels made their biggest attack on the Peruvian capital this year. Police said the Maoist group bombed four political party offices, a courthouse and two banks. —Reuter.

Killer dogs

A PACK of stray dogs savaged and killed a 54-year-old Yugoslav factory worker in a Belgrade suburb on Thursday night. Officials said that the rising cost of keeping dogs had forced many owners to abandon their animals. The exceptionally cold winter this year, Barney Petrovic reports.

Hurt in fall

AN Austrian who tried to commit suicide by jumping 90 feet from the Moenchsbühl cliff in central Salzburg landed on a 76-year-old West German tourist walking below. Stefan Fuchs, aged 27, and Hans Hofmeister from Coburg, both suffered serious head injuries. —Reuter.

Bomb fears

HALF a ton of explosives, detonators and fuse wire were stolen from quarries in Luxembourg this week. Police said yesterday it was too early to say whether it was simple theft or connected with a recent spate of guerrilla attacks directed mostly at Nato-related targets across Western Europe. —Reuter.

Moving right

YOUNG West Germans are becoming increasingly conservative in their political views, according to an opinion poll published yesterday. The poll by the Emnid Institute, said 38 per cent of first-time voters would back the Conservative CDU and its Bavarian partner, the CSU, while the Social Democrats would take 31 per cent, and the Greens 28 per cent. —Reuter.

Poll delay

BANGLADESH'S election commission yesterday postponed the date for filing nomination papers for the parliamentary polls due on February 24, leaving little chance that the election will be held on schedule. No new date has been announced. —AP.

Air crash

AN AIR MALI Antonov-24 crashed shortly after take-off from Timbuktu yesterday, killing 50 of the 51 people aboard, officials at the airline's headquarters in Bamako said. Company officials said there were a dozen foreign citizens aboard the plane, but their nationalities were not revealed. —AP.

Turks reject Bulgarian denial of harassment

Ankara: Turkey has rejected a Bulgarian denial that its ethnic Turkish minority is being pressured into adopting Bulgarian names.

The Bulgarian ambassador, Mr Arguir Konstantinov, was called to the Foreign Ministry yesterday and handed a Note calling for direct talks on the issue between the two countries' foreign ministers.

In its first reference to reports that Turks in Bulgaria had been killed or injured in a campaign to force them to adopt new names, the Ankara Government said it had also received information on the subject.

Despite the denial of the Bulgarian authorities, the information they have given on this subject far from satisfies the Turkish government," it said.

A western diplomat in Ankara also said that his country had reasonably firm reports that 200 people who resisted the change had been killed.

The Ankara statement is the government's strongest after more than a month of press reports of harassment of Turks in Bulgaria and mounting pressure from relatives in Turkey.

France clarifies Italian terror issue

From Campbell Page in Paris

President Mitterrand has clarified his attitude to the controversial presence in France of Italian fugitives from justice.

At a joint press conference with the Italian Prime Minister, Mr Craxi in Paris yesterday, the French leader said Italian terrorists guilty of violent crimes or of complicity in such crimes would be extradited subject to the approval of the French courts.

Those who had not taken a direct part in crimes of violence would not be sent back to Italy. Many had made a clean break with terrorism and had applied for French citizenship, he added.

In recent months, particularly after the murder of a French general in January and fears about a new wave of anti-Italian terrorism in Western Europe, Italian ministers have criticised France's readiness to give refuge to foreign terrorists, including 300 Italians. Mr Giovanni Spadolini, the Defence Minister, was especially scathing about terrorists receiving shelter in France and capable of striking against the whole of Europe.

Mr Craxi, who said recently that Italy was taking steps to secure the extradition of 120 Italian terrorists from France, yesterday gave France a certificate of good conduct. "I do not think that France can be accused of any kind of slackness with regard to terrorism."

French commitment to the struggle against terrorism is indisputable."

President Mitterrand reaffirmed French determination to fight terrorism and denied that France had become a refuge for terrorists.

The French constitution says that "every person persecuted for his actions on behalf of liberty has the right of asylum on the territory of the Republic." France is proud of its long tradition of welcoming political exiles and is now host to 154,000. However, as in the case of the Basque presence in France, the tradition can embarras bilateral relations and produce a change in the French attitude.

Former Italian terrorists in France are worried by recent exchanges between Rome and Paris and by the detention this month of two men. Mr Sergio Toranagli was arrested after being kept under observation by the French authorities, while Mr Massimo Sandrini was arrested in an ordinary police check. Both might be extradited.

● Cape Verde's Prime Minister, Mr Pedro Pres, said yesterday that his Government was willing to accept Basque guerrillas deported from France but not for payment. He was speaking after talks with the Spanish Prime Minister, Mr Gonzalez on the second day of an official visit to Spain.

Your legacy can do more than save a life.

Find out more about how your legacy to Save the Children can give a child a positive, happier future.

For information about the Fund and how your will can be made, or a codicil added, contact Peter Lindsey at The Save the Children Fund, Dept. 5191301, 17 Grove Lane, London SE5 8RD.

Save the Children Legacies Appeal

I wish to give a child a chance. Please send me information about legacies and the Fund's work.

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

The Save the Children Fund, Dept. 5191301, 17 Grove Lane, London SE5 8RD.

13m jobless in EEC

From Derek Brown in Brussels

Unemployment in the EEC has risen to a record 13.7 million people, or nearly 12 per cent of the working population.

Figures released yesterday show a rise of nearly 570,000 unemployed in January, compared with December. The rise, which the statistical office, Eurostat, says cannot be explained solely by severe weather, follows several months of falling or stable unemployment figures.

The jobless rise since last month was greatest in West Germany (up 12.7 per cent), Denmark (up 12.2 per cent), Luxembourg (up 8.8 per cent), and the United Kingdom and the Irish Republic (up 3.8 per cent).

Unemployment among young people rose only slightly in the month, but at the end of December more than 5 million people under 25 years old were out of work. The proportion of young unemployed stood at 37.4 per cent of the total.

Britain still has the highest total of unemployed, with 3,241,000 out of work in percentage terms. British unemployment is topped by Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium, and the Irish Republic.

The comparative unemployment figures are:

	000s	%
W. Germany	2,619	9.7
France	2,553	11.2
Italy	3,132	13.7
Netherlands	804	14.1
Belgium	619	15.0
Luxembourg	3	1.9
Britain	3,342	12.6
Ireland	234	18.1
Denmark	298	11
Greece	113	3.0
Total EEC	13,718	11.8

Liberals struggle for survival as Genscher goes his own way

From Anna Tomlinson in Bonn

WHEN THE Foreign Minister, Mr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, steps down as leader of the Liberal Free Democratic Party (FDP) today after almost 11 years at its helm, he will leave a party struggling for survival and desperate to define its place in the pattern of West German politics.

Mr Genscher, a 57-year-old lawyer with a reputation as one of the most astute tacticians on the Bonn political scene, has made clear that he plans to extend his record as the West's longest-serving Foreign Minister beyond the 1987 general election. He will also assume the Vice-Chancellor in Dr Kohl's conservative-liberal coalition.

But with his departure as FDP chairman Mr Genscher is also partly paying the price for switching his allegiance from the Social Democrats to the CDU in 1982, that decision left the Liberals with a membership of 70,000, a deeply split and contributed to their decline at the polls.

The FDP, under its designated new leader, the Economics Minister, Mr Martin Bangemann, will have to strive to define its position: a choice has to be made between representing big business and fulfilling a role as the liberal custodian of individual rights.

Mr Bangemann, aged 50 and physically a heavyweight, is still smarting from the FDP's annihilation in last year's European elections, a personal blow after his 10 years in the European Parliament.

But while Mr Bangemann, chosen for lack of an alternative, still has to prove his political qualities, he is equipped with the self-confidence the party needs to save it from ruin. He believes that this can be done by placing competitiveness before social equality.

"We want to hold individualism and freedom against egalitarian trends, because efficiency alone will promote our economy and our society," he says.

It is a line that conflicts with the aspirations of the party's left wing, which has accused its leaders of opportunism and demands the tackling of pressing problems such as unemployment and environmental pollution.

The FDP, which in recent opinion polls has been dangerously near the 5 per cent minimum vote requirement for parliamentary representation, will soon be put to the test in three crucial state elections. Next month, in the Saarland, their participation in government is at stake, while in West Berlin they risk being eliminated. There is no indication that the Liberals will be returned in the key state of North Rhine-Westphalia in May.

Within the Bonn coalition, the FDP has come under increased pressure from the right-wing Bavarian CSU of Mr Franz Josef Strauss, which, as an arch-enemy of liberalism, has not concealed its belief that the conservative parties should prepare themselves for a future without the FDP after the 1987 general election.

Mr Genscher, while putting up a fight on matters concerning his own foreign policy, such as the boundary issue — has had to give in on a number of domestic policy points. Without the position of party leader, commentators have asked how long Mr Genscher will have the stamina to fight for the preservation of continuity in foreign policy, on which doubt had already been cast.

They have interpreted as a worrying sign the distinct lack of support from Dr Kohl for the Vice-Chancellor on a number of recent foreign policy issues, and the growing gap between Dr Kohl's increasingly pro-American stance and Mr Genscher's emphasis on the need to safeguard European and German interests.

While Dr Kohl is said to be aware of his own dependence on the Liberals, there are signs that he is also preparing for the possibility of a further decline in support for the Liberal coalition partner. This is reflected most clearly in the Chancellor's efforts to gain greater control of foreign policy which has already resulted in its almost total takeover of German-American relations.

Tension within the coalition, and internal friction in the FDP are likely to prove a hindrance to the party's goal of regaining its traditional third place in West German politics, which has been taken over by the Greens.

While caution is required in predicting the collapse of the FDP — it has participated in government in Bonn for 28 of the past 35 years — the continued vagueness of the Liberal party programme and the damage the party has suffered as a result of its involvement in the Flick corruption scandal make the struggle for survival a daunting task.



Mr Genscher: 11 years at the helm

Blow to Sinowatz

VIENNA: The coalition Government, reeling from a series of political setbacks, was dealt a new blow yesterday by the resignation of its building minister.

A spokesman for the Chancellor, Dr Sinowatz said he had accepted the resignation of Mr Karl Sekanina, after press allegations of financial misconduct by the minister.

Dr Sinowatz later said that he had been unable to confirm the allegations and could not believe there was something wrong. But he said rumours about the incident had burdened the work of the Government.

Earlier this week the minister, aged 58, quit his post as chairman of Austria's most powerful trade union, the metalworkers' union, saying he could no longer do both jobs.

Government officials initially played down the resignation, saying that it would have no effect on the Socialist-led coalition, which has struggled through a series of embarrassing crises. —Reuter.

Greek leader set for win

ATHENS: The Greek Parliament will choose a new president on March 15, it was announced yesterday, and Mr Constantine Karamanlis, aged 78, is expected to win a second five-year term.

The ruling Socialists and the main opposition conservative New Democracy Party have said that they back his continuation in office.

The two parties can marshal the 180 votes — three-fifths of the 300-member legislature — needed to elect a president. Only the Greek Communist Party with 12 deputies is against Mr Karamanlis' candidacy. —Reuter.

Opponents of Baghdad regime
claim 450 soldiers killed

Kurd leaders reject Iraqi offer of amnesty

By Liz Thurgood, Baghdad has not officially commented on this latest round of fighting which reportedly involved the capture by the Kurds of 19 fortified outposts close to the Iranian border and an army base in Shadala. Ambushes have been set along approach roads to prevent government reinforcements getting through. Fighting continues, a spokesman for the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan said.

Whatever the truth of the Kurdish claims, Baghdad clearly cannot afford a renewed war on the home front when Iran might strike at any time. Year-long negotiations with PUK leaders, which broke down last month, allowed the Government to free four of six divisions based in Kurdistan to fight Iran.

Such heavy fighting underlines the Kurdish rejection of the government's amnesty, announced on February 13, the offer covers all the President's many enemies at home and abroad. Political prisoners were to be freed.

In London, the Islamic Dawa Party rejected the amnesty as "a propaganda play" designed by a weak regime at a moment of despair. The Iraqi Communists are believed to have been equally dismissive.

Charging the Government with wide-spread repression, a Dawa spokesman said that no offer would be seriously considered until Baghdad ended the Gulf war and tried those officials responsible for the fighting — in effect, the President.

The demand reflects the party's Iranian connection. Dawa's leader, Mohammad Bager, is based in Tehran while the rank-and-file are blamed for many bomb attacks in Gulf states during recent years.

Other Dawa demands included free elections and the return of thousands of Iraqis deported under the pretext of being Iranian nationals.

The Kurdish Democratic Party said in London that the amnesty had not so far produced the 8,000 Kurds who were allegedly arrested in 1983 after Iran successfully captured Kurdish heights at Haj Umron. Accused of collaborating with the KDP, they were sent to camps close to the Jordanian border. A KDP spokesman said yesterday that they were feared dead.

In Iraq, the PUK claimed to have killed 56 Iraqi soldiers outside the oil town of Kirkuk at the end of January and another 40 near Arbil earlier this month.

The Kurdish objective appears to be twofold: in addition to wresting autonomy from Baghdad, the PUK wants to reestablish its preeminence among Kurdish dissidents. The Kurdish guerrillas were expelled from a broad opposition alliance shortly after opening negotiations with the Government in December.

In a statement earlier this week, the PUK described itself as the "dominant" and "most effective political military opposition force" and claimed that its three-week operation "surpassed all activities by the rest of the opposition in one year."

In a clear reference to the rival Kurdish Democratic Party, PUK chided the Opposition for "boasting about their imaginary achievements" and "criticising our peace negotiations with the Government."



Contraband checkpoint: Israeli soldiers pulling out of Lebanon, pause at Metulla, in northern Israel, their kit ready for inspection by the military police. Israeli troops were forbidden to buy anything while serving in Lebanon

Agonising on the harsh trauma of Lebanon

Israeli public faces a weekend of self-examination

From Ian Black in Jerusalem

ISRAEL'S Friday newspapers are the equivalent of the Sundays in Britain — thick, heavy and bulging with supplements and magazines.

Yesterday, column after column of newspaper was devoted to agonised and often bitter discussion of the problem that Israel faces in extricating itself from the Lebanon quagmire.

At the end of the week in which Israel began its long-awaited withdrawal, the subject of much of yesterday's punditry and analysis was what is the correct response to the rising tide of Shi'ite Muslim resistance in southern Lebanon — resistance which has claimed the lives of 10 soldiers and wounded scores of others since the Government decided on its three-stage unilateral troop pullback last month.

Yehoshua Abaonot, the right-wing mass circulation Hebrew daily, provided its readers with a long feature article entitled: "Shi'ites: all you wanted to know." The paper's rival, Ma'ariv, took up almost a whole page with a huge photograph of the weeping widow of the Israeli colonel killed in a guerrilla ambush last Monday.

He was one of 820 servicemen who have died in Lebanon since the war began in June, 1982.

Mr Uri Lubrani, the coordinator of Israeli government op-

erations in Lebanon, said in an interview with Ma'ariv that the belief that the worst mistake Israel could make would be to act the way that could be interpreted as running away from Shi'ite resistance. The paper's military correspondent reported that the new "iron fist" policy introduced by the Defence Minister, Mr Yitzhak Rabin, earlier this week, is in south Lebanon to stay.

Even critics of the Government seem resigned to the fact that Israel will have to go out fighting and that to speed up the pace of the withdrawal now would be to admit that the army has lost its deterrent power. "There is no choice but to go on executing the withdrawal as planned," the pro-Labour Davar newspaper commented in its editorial. "The illusion must not be allowed to form that the IDF (Israeli Defence Force) is accelerating its pullback because of these attacks."

Mr Gideon Samet, the respected Ha'aretz newspaper columnist, wrote caustically about the use of the phrase "Lebanese methods" to describe how to crush Shi'ite resistance.

Beyond the disagreement about the best way to fight terror, he wrote, "we must understand that in the future we're going to have to live with these people, about whom we knew so little when we set off for war. If we take our revenge using 'Lebanese methods' we'll only arouse them further." After the abject failure of its grand strategy in Lebanon, Mr Samet said, Israel was now behaving like a wounded animal and should pull out without further delay.

As well as these immediate problems, yesterday's papers also paid some attention to the political and intelligence failures that helped turn the southern Lebanese Shi'ites, many of whom greeted the Israeli troops as liberators when the war began, into more dangerous and implacable foes than the Palestinians ever were.

Dr Yitzhak Bailey, an expert on Shi'ite affairs and a former adviser to Mr Lubrani, was quoted as saying that the longer Israeli forces stay in Lebanon, the more radical the Shi'ites will become. Israel's support for and dependence on the largely Christian South Lebanese Army, he said, will prevent any possibility of creating good relations with the Shi'ite community.

Reading their newspapers this weekend, Israelis will find it hard to disagree with the words of Labour's former foreign minister, Mr Abba Eban, that the Lebanese war "has become the source of a violently traumatic experience from which our nation can never be liberated except by self-examination."

UN condemns Gulf war PoW torture

From Ian Guest in Geneva

After visiting prisoner of war camps in Iran and Iraq, a UN team of investigators has accused both governments of widespread violations of the third Geneva convention on the treatment of PoWs.

The team's report, which has just been made public, says that the Iranians have attempted indoctrination of the 50,000 Iraqi prisoners held in Iran, and deprived them of mail and recreation. This, the report says, has contributed towards a serious problem of mental disorder in the camps.

The report also says that the Iraqis have used "physical violence" against Iranian PoWs, who number about 10,000.

This, says the report, included "whipping, beating with truncheons or cables, electric shocks, assaults on the sexual organs, and kicks — often inflicted in parts of the body where PoWs had suffered wounds."

The UN team consisted of two lawyers, from Austria and Norway, and a Venezuelan major-general. They visited the two countries between January 11 and 25.

The visit was prompted by an incident at the Gorgan camp, in Iran, last October 10, when Red Cross delegates witnessed a prison riot in which Iraqi PoWs were killed. The Iranians subsequently accused the Red Cross of spying, and shut down the agency's operations in Iran.

Peres justifies reprisals against Shi'ites as Arab ex-mayor dies of exposure

Tel Aviv: The Prime Minister, Mr Shimon Peres, said yesterday that Israel's policy of tough reprisals against Shi'ite Muslims in southern Lebanon was right and should continue.

"What we are doing in Lebanon is the right policy," he said after returning from Romania.

As he spoke, it was learned from Sidout, a former village mayor died of exposure yesterday after Israeli troops kept him and other Lebanese prisoners out all night in the winter cold.

Lebanese security sources said that the death of Abu Hassan Mohammed Ali Jawad in the village of Arab Salim brought to five the number of Lebanese who had been killed in Israeli raids on six Shi'ite villages on Thursday.

Israeli troops also shot dead a gunman who fired on an Israeli convoy near the village of Deir Mimes, south-west of Marjayoun, yesterday, and wounded five civilians, including a woman and two children, in three incidents.

Mr Peres rejected pressure to speed up Israel's pullout because of high Israeli casualties. "I think we have to implement our plans and not change them because we are being attacked," he said.

Mr Peres and his Cabinet are scheduled to meet military chiefs tomorrow to discuss the next stage of the withdrawal, which they have said will be completed by the end of summer.

Military sources said that there were two other attacks on Israeli troops in southern Lebanon yesterday but no Israelis were injured. In one attack, a roadside bomb exploded near a convoy near Shabriba, north-east of Tyre.

Ian Black adds: Palestinians from the occupied West Bank yesterday gave a powerful display of their loyalty to the PLO Leader, Mr Yasser Arafat, when they gathered in Jerusalem to pay homage to a PLO official who was murdered in Jordan last year.

Posters of Mr Arafat and PLO banners were displayed next to pictures of Mr Fahd Kawasneh, the former mayor of the West Bank town of Hebron and newly-elected member of the PLO executive committee. He was killed in Amman last December by pro-Syrian rebels.

Hundreds of people from East Jerusalem and the West Bank packed into a school hall to listen to speeches praising Mr Kawasneh, who was deported by Israel from Hebron in 1980 in retaliation for a PLO attack on Jewish settlers.

Young men in the crowd briefly displayed the Palestinian flag — a custodial offence in the occupied territories — and chanted the PLO slogan of "revolution until victory."

Mr Kawasneh was elected to the PLO executive committee at a meeting of the Palestine National Council in Amman last November. He was also appointed to the important post of director of the organisation's department of the occupied lands in a move designed to strengthen support for Mr Arafat in the West Bank.

Head and shoulders above the rest.



The New Starlet 1.0 GL

TOYOTA

Please send me a brochure:
The Sales Dept., Toyota (GB) Ltd., The Quadrangle, Redhill, Surrey RH1 1PX. Tel: 0737 68585.

That's motoring

Name _____ Address and Postcode _____

THE NEW STARLET COSTS £4,770. PRICE CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS AND INCLUDES CAR TAX AND SEATBELTS BUT EXCLUDES ROAD TAX, NUMBER PLATES AND DELIVERY CHARGES. OFFICIAL FUEL CONSUMPTION FIGURES: 62.5 MPG (4.5 L/100KM) AT CONSTANT 50MPH, 44.1 MPG (6.4 L/100KM) AT CONSTANT 75MPH, 45.5 MPG (6.1 L/100KM) URBAN CYCLE.

the 1990s, the number of people in the United States who are 65 years of age or older is projected to increase from 20 million to 35 million, and the number of people 75 years of age or older is projected to increase from 10 million to 17 million (U.S. Census Bureau, 1996). The number of people 85 years of age or older is projected to increase from 2 million to 4 million (U.S. Census Bureau, 1996). The number of people 90 years of age or older is projected to increase from 500,000 to 1 million (U.S. Census Bureau, 1996). The number of people 95 years of age or older is projected to increase from 100,000 to 200,000 (U.S. Census Bureau, 1996). The number of people 100 years of age or older is projected to increase from 10,000 to 20,000 (U.S. Census Bureau, 1996).

A group of young people demonstrated outside the court, carrying placards accusing the Government of double standards in allowing some of the accused—all but one of whom were in the armed forces—to remain in military custody pending the conclusion of the trial.

Findings of forensic experts formed part of a report by most members of a panel probing the murder.

One of the accused, Major-General Prospero Olivas, the former Philippine military police chief, conducted the initial investigation into the murder. He said the assassin was a Communist agent called Rolando Galman who was shot dead at the airport by security men.

● Armed men yesterday kidnapped a Catholic bishop and 10 nuns, and threatened to kill workers in the southern Philippines. Mgr. Federico Escaler, bishop of Zamboanga del Sur, and his companions were abducted from a minibus while on their way to Zamboanga City from the southern island of Mindanao.—Reuter.

هكذا من الأهل

Christopher Chippindale reveals how the National Trust has ploughed up a splendid section of a medieval landscape — and questions the priorities of the Trust's operations

RIGHT: Wimpole Hall from the air with, lower right, the Victorian stable block, and between it and the house, the parish church. Above the house, in the area not improved by the gardeners, the medieval strips of ridge and furrow show as parallel lines of dark and light. Cambridge University aerial photograph.

Above and below: Pictures by Kenneth Saunders of the Hall, the stable block, and the church.

How far can we trust the Trust?

THE annual report of the National Trust, published in the next week or so, is likely to contain an embarrassing reference to vandalism of our heritage carried out last year when it accidentally ploughed up a unique medieval landscape at Wimpole Hall, Cambridgeshire.

The mistake happened through simple ignorance, the farm manager simply did not realise that the humps and bumps in the Wimpole park were rare and precious relics of ancient farming. But beyond the facts of what happened — and those are disputed — is a more complex question. What is the heritage we want the Trust to preserve, and which parts should be abandoned if preserving everything costs too much?

Wimpole is the most spectacular country mansion in Cambridgeshire, a symmetrical red brick, a symmetrical park, approached by a two mile avenue. The core, dating to 1640, was enlarged several times up to 1770. The last additions, made about 1840 in a "Victorian spirit of display", were demolished a few years ago.

Successive owners of Wimpole, expanded its park, clearing away the hamlets, cottages, and re-settling the peasants out of sight. (The one building of old Wimpole village that survives is the church, owned by a power

the squire could not override.) Part was landscaped by Capability Brown and Humphrey Repton and decorated with a sham ruined castle; much was simply left as grassland.

Wimpole was left to the Trust by Mrs. George Buxton, the daughter of Rudyard Kipling, who died in 1976. The house was in a fair state (though the roof was going); the estate was quite dilapidated. As usual, there was an agonising pause while the Trust worked out if it could afford to take Wimpole on. Lacking state funding or substantial central funds, the Trust keeps to a strict formula. The loss on upkeep of a property must be balanced by the profit on commercial management of the estate and by the income from visitors — Wimpole had 50,000 plus last year. Wimpole also has the royalties on Kipling's books, but only until the end of 1983 when the copyright expires.

The formula doesn't always work. In 1984, the balance was made. Car park, cafe, and souvenir shop appeared, as well as precautions against muddy shoes and light fingers — the price in loss of atmosphere that is always paid for the fabric's physical survival.

Then the Trust turned to the grounds, restoring the ruin which had become dangerously ruinous, clearing the vistas, replanting the ave-

nue by an imaginative sponsor-a-tree programme.

The buildings on the estate's Home Farm were fearfully decayed, but they are marvellous: a perfect model farm designed by the neo-classical architect Sir John Soane in the early 1800s, complete with loose boxes for deer. They were restored, and a display of historic farm machinery installed in the great barn. Thatching alone cost £30,000 at the farm.

The Trust had the happy idea of making Home Farm into a rare breed centre, both conserving yet another part of the heritage and providing extra visitor income. It is a great success. 72,000 visitors last year, with a vast Tawny Owl named Phyllis a favourite attraction. Two white Loughorn bulls from Home Farm won prizes at last year's Royal Show.

So far, so good: the house, the landscaped grounds, the mock ruin, the Home Farm, the rare breeds — all part of the heritage, all saved by the Trust for the benefit of us all.

Commercial farming of the park has been a different matter. As grazing it is a disaster. The first winter, the Trust put out store cattle to fatten in it, then they had put on no weight whatsoever. The energetic farm manager saw it needed radical improvement — pipe draining,

Paraploughing, harrowing, reseeded with modern productive strains of grass mixes — and last year he set to work.

He was right. The grass had been neglected for decades, in fact for three centuries. Left alone since the cottagers were evicted, Wimpole park preserved three medieval settlements complete with house platforms, paths and tracks, windmill mound, quarry, and several hundred acres of ridge-and-furrow open fields.

Christopher Taylor, the expert on ancient fields, calls Wimpole the "finest piece of fossilised medieval landscape in East Anglia." When the archaeologists got word of the ploughing last June, they had it stopped — but that was too late for half the best ridge and furrow and for one of the settlement sites (it was meant to be left alone, but somehow was ploughed with the rest). East Anglia is the heartland of prehistoric farming — the last medieval landscape in Suffolk was ploughed 25 years ago — which makes Wimpole a greater loss.

How great is the damage? The Trust's archaeologist, Peter Wade-Martins, thinks positively and talks in terms of blurring of the details of the earthworks. Tom Williamson, lecturer in landscape studies at the University of East Anglia, says flatly that they have come out looking like a bowling green. By modern standards, a medieval landscape is a slight kind of earthwork. At most a foot or two high, its banks simply can't stand up to the attack of a modern tractor. And the evidence is that it is a first ploughing that does the worst damage.

The Trust has recanted, stopped the grassland improvement, and woken up to this other bit of heritage it inherited. But the financial lifeboat that saved Wimpole has been upset: were it not for windfall royalties from a Rudyard Kipling film, Wimpole would make a loss every year. The trouble with the landscape, seen in competition with the other kinds of heritage at Wimpole, is that it is not obviously pretty or marketable. The Trust will do its best, and plans a guided walk for visitors round the park earthworks; but the Wimpole landscape, if its archaeology is to be properly respected, will never earn its keep.

A final chunk of heritage at Wimpole, and the last building to be tackled, is the stable block. Built in 1851, the year of the Great Exhibition, the stables are Victorian architecture at its most grandiose and least impressive. They look distressingly like tram sheds with, literally, Nikolaus Pevsner, normally a partisan for Victorian oddities, called them horrible. Like everything else at Wim-

pole when the Trust arrived, they are derelict; and they don't belong with the period of the house itself. Cambridgeshire was surveyed in the 1850s, before Victorian buildings began to be loved. So the stables were left out of the register of listed buildings, and there may still be no legal obstacle to pulling them down, as happened to the same architect's "improvements" to the house itself.

But tastes have broadened since. No one wants to see them go, and the Trust is being given a grant-in-aid towards the £250,000 cost of restoring them. They will be used as a centre for visitors, and perhaps for horses again. In a crucial respect, that they can earn their keep in the 1980s, they have the advantage over a medieval landscape which is three times as old, and by any measure of rarity, immensely more precious.

So can we still trust the Trust? They will certainly not repeat this particular mistake. But we may see some more Wimpoles, as the Trust is asked to treat comparatively modern oddities with the same care as ancient rarities. As we take on an ever larger view of what the heritage is, we cramp the Trust's commercial freedom, the freedom which in the past allowed them to build the kind of financial lifeboats that saved Wimpole in the first place.

one has to look at the total fat content of one's diet. If one eschews junk food, eats fresh fruit and vegetables, the occasional organic pork chop is not going to kill you.

As to how can you eat her after keeping her, the answer is, reluctantly. She was cosseted and nurtured whilst alive. Treated kindly and humanely and ultimately killed without feeling a thing. It was indeed sad to kill her. But better to do that than go to the butchers, where all problems are solved because you know nothing about the history of your pork chop.

The taste of the first leg of pork was terrific, all those wintery apples, all that fresh air. It was deep and resonant. The comparison with supermarket pork was non-existent. The stuff one buys in the shops is pale, flabby, soft, and insipid.

We pickled a ham, which came out brown from its pickles, but it looked like a proper eighteenth century ham, like those little ones you see in dolls' houses. Supposedly it should mature for a further twelve months before eating. But the temptation was too much. After hanging it in the garage for six weeks we tried some. At first we nibbled a bit raw, hasty. It tasted interesting. Then we tried some as bacon, it was extremely picky and salty. We were drinking tea all morning.

We de-salted it by soaking it in water overnight. Then we cooked it with a big bunch of fresh garden herbs. Now at last it looked perfect, complete with a ham trim, brownish on the outside, pinker towards the middle. It tasted strong but not too salty. Its texture was dense. Each slice was substantial. It ranked with puffball pickled in brandy.

PENNINE WAYS: When the water supply froze, it seemed sensible to try to use snow. But when the snow wouldn't melt...? Kate Wedd continues her account of the family that has abandoned town life for a moorland cottage

When I had an early morning pot of brandy in bed, I realised the winter was getting to me

I AM NOT at one with Nature these days. I am more at sixes and sevens with it. The Good Life has seemed a bit mediocre recently; the Simple Life has been damn complicated. This is largely because Nature has pulled a dirty trick at the very moment when I was starting to get confident — nay cocky — at my successful survival of a Pennine winter. Between the end of the festive season and now, I thought I had tried — and survived — every likely calamity.

First, I had no water. This was because the pipe from the spring froze on its way to the water tank in our loft. The way to resolve this is to get up in the loft with a blow torch and worm your way over the rafters playing the flame on the pipe and be careful not to ignite the loft lagging. I called a plumber.

Then I had no electricity. This was because the overhead wires bang together in high wind and short out. Then I had no heating. This is because the heating system works with an electric pump and the electricity was off. Then I had no water... and this is because the house was so cold that the pipes kept freezing and re-freezing.

At first I tried to avoid or even flee the remorseless logic of this cycle of disaster, but I have now adopted a different tactic and am trying to "go with it". At one with Nature and all that.

When the water first froze, Toots and I demonstrated our pioneer spirit by dashing out into the garden and filling the dustbin with sea-driven snow. We then tipped out one, but four bin loads into the bath to melt down.

It's a funny thing about snow, but when you want some to go skiing or to have a sledging party, it melts — faster than a toddler's icecream. But when you want it to melt, even when it is in a fairly warm environment (like my bathroom), it can hang round for days. The first day we whacked it with the potato masher and wooden spoons to break it up. The second day we turned it into an educational experience and made snow men and snowdrops, and then, instead of doing it in the cold wind, I'm surprised everyone does not do it. The third day (with the water running again and all the snow melting outside — but not in the bath) we accepted defeat and baled the stuff out of the bathroom window, which took an extraordinarily long time and left a surprisingly black bath.

Behind us, that experience behind us, we had power off all day for the next two or three days while the electricity men (God bless you, sirs) put up extra poles to stop the wires hanging together, I setting down a plan to manage the crisis — which after all is a townie, 20th century response — but to endure it. We got on better that way. When the power was off, we sat over the coal fire by candlelight. When the water was off, I drank brandy. It was when I had an early morning pot of brandy in bed that I realised the winter was getting to me.

It is not that it is cold. It is not that I am physically hard work. Though both things are true, it is that it is so very boring. Snow, snow, snow... white snow out of a white sky on to a white ground with white fences and white walls and white trees. I realised that people get cut off in the snow not because they cannot dig themselves out, but because they are too bored to try. This earthly paradise has been jolly dull recently... I can say nothing worse than that.

It is really a question of deciding which eccentricity I shall make my own. Above the snow line we are all mad. It's just a question of a new comer like me finding my own special style. My natural tendency is to chronic alcoholism, for which I have undertaken a long and arduous training and which is readily accessible since supplies can be sledged downhill in unbreakable boxes. But equally I could fill the house with cats or become grossly overweight or startlingly thin. Already my midnight leaping to Felicity Kendall's Shape-Up Tape have become a byword among shepherds up and down the dale. The possibilities are endless, and most of the early stages of my natural choice would be drink and domestic violence.

Toots and I have a relationship which flourishes and blooms out of doors, and while undoubtedly it is All My Fault and I am a self-confessed failure as a Mother, she and I are both very sick of each other when we are imprisoned by a blizzard for more than 48 hours.

After we have squelched Play-Doh all over the floor and fallen out over her scheme to re-decorate the house with handprints, after I have tried without much success to make a puppet out of a hobbit, after I have (Blue Peter) you have a lot to answer for) and after I have miserably failed in my nominated role as a petrol pump, a tree blowing in the breeze,

a troll under a bridge, and a mummy-tiger, we feel we have explored each other to the limits and something more is needed. What I think is really needed is a clip around the ear, but of course that is Not On.

I do not abuse her — she abuses me. If there were any justice in this child-obsessed society, I should be made a parent of court and be put in the care of the local authority. She ordered me about in a way which would raise eyebrows in the SAS, she demands activities and materials which would beggar a Gypsy, and after I have rolled on the floor being a leaping salmon or a beached whale, she scowls dreadfully and says "That's not much like a fish, Mummy." Too right, Mummy. I don't feel like a fish, I feel like a child abuser. And if I can't be a cruel step-mother, I don't see why the hell I should be a puppy with a poorly pup, Mrs Vet.

I collapse under a handful of snowflakes in exacerbated by my premature welcoming of spring. Only a few days ago I went out into my garden bare headed and gloveless and rooted around in what is going to be my fruit garden (as soon as I can make the boulders). There was a warm wet wind blowing which smelled of damp earth. Patches of green showing through the eternal white of snow and permanent grey of ice. One morning I woke and instead of the silence of a snow-covered countryside, I could hear the gurgle of streams which were bursting with melt water.

I stopped drinking brandy in the morning, and felt over all, that Life is a Good Thing, and Toots is a delightful child and shows her prodigious intelligence by her need for stimulation and her



"If there were any justice in this child-obsessed society, I should be made a parent of court and be put in the care of the local authority."

quite remarkable imagination. "Be a leaping salmon!" indeed — how sweet!

Birds were singing again and the lapwings — where had they been all this time? — had suddenly turned up in big jolly flocks and had started pairing and dove-bombing over the moor to mark out their territory. There were tiny green shoots all over the garden. It was round one to winter... but at least, we had made it through to spring with body and mind intact, and liver only slightly damaged.

So I said joyously in the village and was greeted with a sad knowing smile. "Oh no," they said, pityingly. "This is a thaw. We'll have a lot more snow before winter is over. Why, we haven't had hardly any snow for twenty years!" I exclaimed. "Unheard of temperatures, lots of snow."

"Oh yes, there..." they said, dismissing with a southwards wave all counties below Yorkshire. "It was very cold there; but here it's been remarkably mild. We don't really start winter till the end of February. But then it can go on till May."

So now disappointment is mingled with frostbite and once more I gaze out of my window at a snow-blown hill which looks as if it never had the skill to grow grass. Surviving the winter remains a question of keeping the house warm, the pipes free of ice, the aerobics tape and kneeling to God and saying "How long, Oh Lord! How long!"

A pigsty at the bottom of the garden

So what is more natural than to put a pig in it? But is the animal a pet or a meal ticket? Jim Cameron describes how he went the whole hog

purveyor of five hundred pigs. I explained what I wanted, an easy, no problems, beginner's pig. Mr Turnbull laughed and said there would be only one problem, that we'd get too fond of her and not be able to kill her. We settled on a gilt, a young female, middle white x saddleback, ten weeks old and costing £28.

Before you can move a pig, you have to have a movement order. So we arranged to come back in a week's time for Philippa, as we had already christened her. The week passed in trepidation. I prepared a large chest, lavishly ventilated, and set off with the trailer. The movement order was handed over. I said, "I want one with nice markings." Mr Turnbull told Hazel, his assistant, to choose a good one. We entered the barn where the batch of growers was. There were about 20, in a large pen. Hazel dived in and finally grabbed what she thought

was a good one. Mr Turnbull demurred and the chase resumed. Pigs can run very fast. Eventually a most beautiful pig was carried to the trailer. So, loaded with Philippa and six bales of straw, I gingerly drove home.

Keeping the pig was surprisingly easy. We were determined that there was to be no offensive smell, and there wasn't. Merely a pleasantly rural whiff of fresh straw. The secret was daily cleaning out of any muck straight on to a covered compost heap. This muck, and resulting marvellous compost, was a valuable by-product.

Philippa proved clean, lively, and intelligent. She would stand on hind legs looking over her door at what was going on in the garden. On the afternoon of her weekly straw change, she really went crackers. Sliding down her yard and throwing in fresh straw would make her disappear into her sty and then come galloping out through her doorway at full

speed, the charge culminating in a roll at my feet like a demented Labrador.

She loved apples and ate buckets after bucket of windfalls. Gloucester Old Spots were in fact bred for this very purpose. Courgettes were another favourite.

At night she would disappear into a pile of straw. They keep pigs outdoors in Sweden, even in the winter, perfectly happily as long as they have ad lib straw for burrowing into.

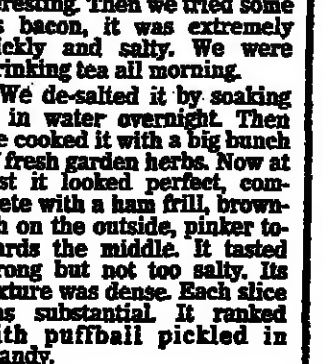
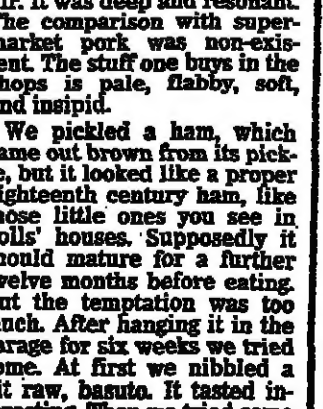
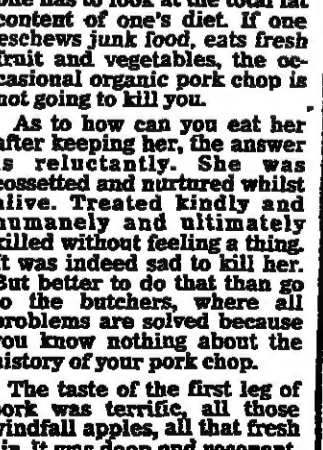
Philippa certainly had presence, she was very real. One could understand the fascination of pigs for writers, and literature is full of references to them. One of the best of all children's books is The Peppercorn Pig by Nina Bayden. Only after keeping a pig can one fully appreciate the book.

In the utilitarian sense there is Cottage Economy, by William Cobbett, and the haunting Larkrise To Candleford, by Flora Robson.

But best of all for pure surrealism is A Scots Quair, by Grassie Gibbon, a little known and neglected book set on the east coast of Scotland. It consists of three novels, the first Sunset Song, is as earthy and beautiful as John Berger's Savoy. In the second, Cloud Howe, there is the episode when one character slips the body of a pig into his friend's bed. His friend returning home late from the pub, cuddles the pig and exclaims, "Your awful cold the night, Jeanie." Thinking it to be his wife.

As almost vegetarians, friends were surprised that we were keeping a pig. "How can you eat all that meat?" "Pork has the highest fat content, you'll have a heart attack." But most of all, "How can you bear to eat her after keeping her?" The trouble was that we could see their point of view; in a sense one agreed with them. But some meat occasionally, say once a fortnight, seems right to me. Pork is indeed very fatty, but

The weighband, estimated weight 143lb.



WEEK-END PEOPLE

RICHARDSON: on the set of *The Underworld* — picture by Martin Argles (left); and as Ruth Ellis in *Dance With A Stranger*

The blonde caught up in a danse macabre

MY first view of Miranda Richardson as she hobbled into view across a windy expanse of London's dockland was of a small, hunched figure of indeterminate sex, bringing up the rear of a band of the ugliest, most-misshapen semi-humans it has ever been my misfortune to stamp eyes on. Some had their foreheads where their cheeks should be. Others were covered in green slime.

They were all working on a film with the catchy title of *The Underworld*. Since everyone on the set was sworn to secrecy I have no inkling of the plot but as far as I could make out it involves a pack of mutants terrorising the Underground, with Miranda Richardson at their helm. Watching them all line up for their actor's lunch was truly bizarre, and I admit I had another slice of garlic bread, just in case.

Having seen her playing Ruth Ellis in *Dance With A Stranger*, her first film, I am certain that Miranda Richardson is going to be a major star, one of the great English Actresses. You know the kind I mean, the ones like the Jacks, the Smiths. Put them in a Hollywood film and they still

come up smelling of grease-paint and the Old Vic.

Trying to conduct an interview with an actress of such conspicuous talent, when half of her face seems to belong to a hairless bulldog, is no easy matter. Everytime Miranda Richardson laughed, which was often, despite the gravity of our discussion, she revealed a neck that appeared to have been transplanted from a turkey. How it wobbled and pulsed with merriment!

Dance With A Stranger feels like one of those claustrophobic social tragedies in which the British film industry specialised over two decades ago, all set in dingy council flats lit by a single bar of the electric fire, and usually starring Rita Tushingham.

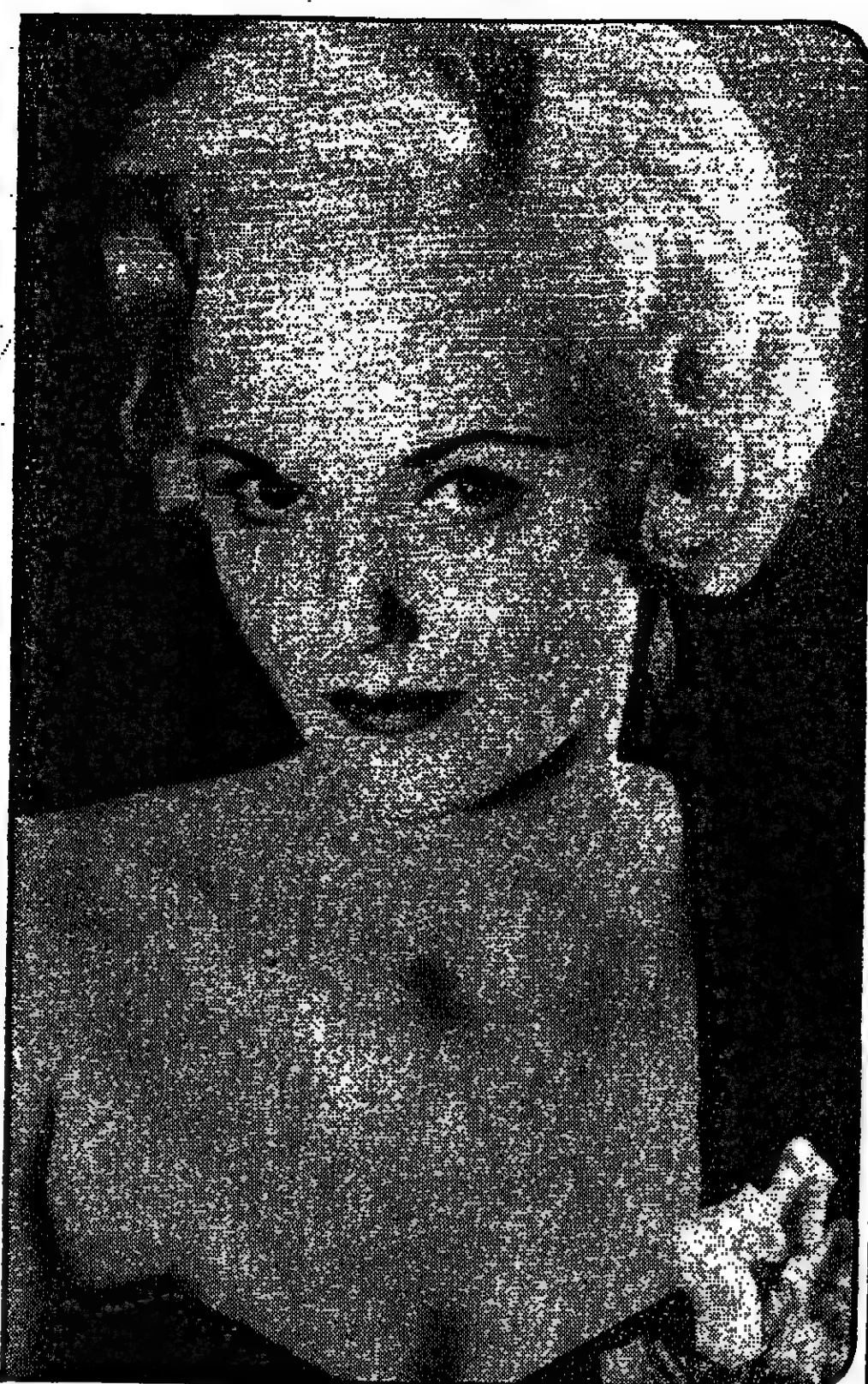
Ruth Ellis, as I'm sure we all know by now was the last woman to be hanged in Britain, convicted of shooting her treacherous lover, David Blakely, in the summer of 1953. If she'd been anywhere else in the world she'd have got off with it on parole, as a crime of passion. But as far as this country was concerned there is no passion. Miranda Richardson switches from her Ruth Ellis voice to an imitation of the judge at the Old

Bailey: "Passion doesn't exist."

Miranda Richardson spent the first few years of her career as a typical young hopeful, criss-crossing Britain, from Derby to Bristol, from Brenda in an Ayckbourne comedy ("she had an enormous inner life"), to Anne in Arthur Miller's *All My Sons*. However much energy she puts into the retelling of her story so far it still sounds like a slog. But it has put fetching wrinkles on her face and given her a set of eyes that give nothing away, and seem to stare at you from somewhere deep within. It is this unfathomable look, I am sure, which persuaded the makers of *Dance With A Stranger* to cast her as Ruth Ellis.

Before the screen test she was asked to watch a documentary of the case which included a tape-recording of Ellis's real voice. "She'd been taping herself on her new present. Little snippets. But everything came back to Blakely, David. This David that she was completely obsessed. She was also drunk. So I thought, well, have a bash."

It was her voice really. It sounded so peculiar coming from her. It's really an



MANCHESTER GUARDIAN 1960

FEBRUARY 24: The East German authorities have ordered a local inquiry into the activities of Dr Otto Dibelius, the Evangelical Bishop of Berlin and Brandenburg.

The ostensible reason for this is the bishop's publication of his view that, as a Christian, the citizen owed no direct allegiance to an authoritarian regime.

The real East German motive is to prevent Dr Dibelius from visiting East Berlin ever again, just as he has been prevented from visiting the remainder of East Germany and has thus been cut off from the greater part of his diocese and his flock.

Discord of this kind is certain to be exploited by East Germany, whose ultimate purpose has never been disguised—the division of the East from the West German Evangelicals, and the creation of a controlled East German, Evangelical State Church.

FEBRUARY 25: Mr Galt-skell has a brief but dramatic glimpse yesterday of the dissension and personal animosity which will almost certainly break out among some members of his National Executive Committee when it discusses next month the party's attitude to nationalisation.

Mr Galt-skell will have strong, and probably decisive, support from most of the trade unions for his proposal that the controversial Clause 4 of the party's constitution should be amended.

As it is, his chief opponents on this issue—Mr Anthony Greenwood and Mr Harold Wilson—have lost the preliminary skirmish. Their joint attempt to have discussion on the clause postponed until Mr Bevan has recovered from his illness was rejected at yesterday's meeting.

FEBRUARY 26: Richard Cunningsham, the new editor of *Tribune*, is wearing Michael Foot's old mantle with a flourish. In the edition of his paper to be published tomorrow he as good as says that Labour's defeat in October can be blamed on Mr Galt-skell—the last three elections were fought and lost on the policies which Mr Galt-skell thoroughly approved.

It maintains that since his Blackpool speech Mr Galt-skell has made "mistake after mistake" about the constitution. "He said then that the whole of Clause 4 was written 40 years ago. It was wrong. The words 'distribution of the means of production' were added in 1929. It also omitted to quote... the last sentence of the clause... and the best obtainable system of popular administration and control of each industry... which gives the lie to his statement that Clause 4 excludes any form of public ownership other than nationalisation."

FEBRUARY 27: The engagement of Princess Margaret was announced in the Court Circular last night. The engagement was certainly the best-kept secret in royal circles for many years. It was not unknown that Mr Armstrong-Jones was a friend of the Princess.

He has for some time been in the amorphous part of society often called the "Margaret set"—a serious misnomer since there are so many different sets of people with whom the Princess moves around. He first came into contact with the Royal Family when he was a photographer for a society magazine and took a successful series of photographs of the Queen and her family.

His friendship with the Princess has been conducted and grown unobtrusively and discreetly. It made no difference to his own way of life which is the casual, informal routine of a mature young person with enough money to please themselves but without the rigid formality of what is known as "society."

Mr Armstrong-Jones is most often to be seen in Chelsea or Soho, or in Mayfair. He patronises small, not necessarily smart, restaurants and dresses casually—tending towards suede jackets and narrow trousers, rather than the uniform dard suit and bowler hat which many other of the Princess's escorts have worn.

Princess Margaret told only very few of her friends about the engagement in the last few days. It is obvious that she was happy to let them know. Those who really understand her ways and motives are not surprised that she should choose a commoner (albeit an Old Etonian) for her husband. The royal houses of Europe have produced no princes of the sort that would appeal to her.



CUNNINGHAM: tycoon of pop — picture by Frank Martin

Rippling waters run deep

HERE is a quiz question. Which pop record that got to number four in the hit parade in 1979 cost only 60 pence to make? The answer, perversely enough is *Money*, by the Flying Lizards.

The 60 pence went on a return tube fare across London for David Cunningham as he set off to record a piano part with a friend. The rest was done in his own home-made studio on a tape he, or, acquired for nothing.

David Cunningham is a softly spoken Irishman who looks as if he has chosen the wrong profession. He has short, graying hair and wears glasses, and he wears clothes of quite outstanding ordinariness. I could imagine him working in a newsagent's in Carlisle. But instead this self-made tycoon

of pop has been handed one of television's prime sites — the closedown spot on Channel 4.

From February 28, "as opposed to that awful woman talking about religion," late night viewers will be able to watch water, lots of it, green water, yellow water, rippling water, still water, water with "bubbles" reflected in it, sparkling water, enough water to drive the Ancient Mariner to drink.

The films were made at Clapham Pond and the Thames at Isleworth. David Cunningham's proud boast is that "they probably required that least editing of anything that's ever been on television." To the untutored eye they appear to have required no editing at all. Having chosen his preferred patch of

water the camera is content to keep staring at it for the next ten or fifteen minutes without moving, while David Cunningham's gentle electronic music plays a game of hide and seek with the images. I found it curiously seductive.

"The thing was," he explains, "to find something that moves very slowly as a direct reaction to the speed of television. Television shows us much of the World About Us, that kind of thing, yet it never looks at it this way. There's always some kind of focus on some activity. Whether it's some little bug in the corner scratching or whatever." In this case I can guarantee anxious viewers that there is absolutely no activity whatsoever.

"The word I use is succulent."

BIRTHDAYS

TODAY: Walter Allen, author, literary critic, 74; the Duke of Devonshire, co-owner, Marlborough Fine Art, 57; Shakira Caine, model, 38; Trevor Cherry, footballer, 37; Lord Ezra, former chairman, NCB, 68; Pete Fonda, actor, 46; Leslie Halliwell, cinema encyclopaedist, 58; Kathleen Harrison, actress, 57; Bernard Kay, actor, 47.

TOMORROW: Cricketers: Brian Close, 54, John Lever, 56, and Derek Randall, 34; the Lionel Dakers, director, Royal School of Church Music, 61; Jess Conrad, entertainer, 50; Paul Jones, singer, actor, 43; Richard Hamilton, painter, 63; Pat Kirkwood, musical theatre actress, 64.

MONDAY: Actors: Diane Baker, 47; Bernard Bresslaw, 51; and Tom Courtenay, 45; John Arlott, author, journalist, broadcaster, 71; Elkie Brooks, rock blues singer, 30; Anthony Burgess, novelist, critic, composer, 68.

TUESDAY: Lord Bridge of Harwich, law lord, chairman, Security Commission, 63; Peter Carter-Ruck, libel solicitor, 71; Sir Donald Gosnell, judge, 57; Sir John Glesne, comedian, 56; James Goldsmith, investor, publisher, 52; Betty Johnson, actress, 64; Gerald Scammell, author, broadcaster, 54; singers: Johnny Esch, 53; Fats Domino, 57; and Sammie Shaw, 35.

WEDNESDAY: Actresses: Joan Bennett, 75; Elizabeth Taylor, 53; and Joanne Woodward, 55; Paddy Ashdown, Liberal Alliance MP, 44; Viscount Cowdray, head of the family controlling Lazard's, Longman's and the FT, 73; Peter de Vries, poet, novelist, 73; Murray Jones, actor, 63.

THURSDAY: Peter Allis, actor, 57; Peter Goller, commentator, 54; Alfred Burke, actor, 57; Sir William Goldstream, painter, 77; Harry Fantoni, novelist, cartoonist, jazz musician, broadcaster, 45.

FRIDAY: Harry Belafonte, singer, 58; David Broome, Olympic show jumper, 45; George Burn, chairman, All England Jumping Course, 57; Roger Daltry, actor, lead singer with the Band, 40; Andrew Gault, actor, 62.

SCAMMELL: demythologising Solzhenitsyn

Mission of the man from the Gulag

ALEXANDER Solzhenitsyn, self-styled "sword in the Hand of the Highest" and recent scourge of the Kremlin leadership, keeps to his compound in Vermont, surrounded by a high fence and with a television monitor at the electronically controlled gate. Visitors are strictly not welcome; as he can get to a Gulag in the "free" world.

Michael Scammell, who has just written a biography of the man, lives in the chocolate-box Home Counties, commuting to a pocket-sized office he borrows in Covent Garden. In contrast to his subject, Scammell is open and easily accessible.

It is a biography, all 1,051 pages of it, with the subject's back turned. Intellectually, Scammell has lived with the man for two decades or more, translating his important works for an English audience, agreeing to publish the once headline-making Letter To Soviet Leaders, being mauled by the inquisitive KGB after he tried to approach Sholzhentisyn in Moscow.

In fact, he has only been allowed into the presence twice — once in Switzerland and once in Vermont. Scammell doubts very much whether he has read the biography. But he remains deeply impressed by Solzhenitsyn's iron self-confidence, as he calls it, and his burning sense of mission.

"Psychologically," says Scammell, searching carefully for words, "I feel a great affinity for the freedom-fighter, the lone man. He is also a big literary figure who has suffered from insufficient literary criticism. He was primus inter pares among the dissidents. We



have allowed ideological enchantment to get in the way of assessing him properly."

Scammell insists that he did not set out to debunk Solzhenitsyn, but thinks he may have "de-mythologised" him. The book is undoubtedly a good read. Solzhenitsyn's life has been amazingly rich in texture. A zeal for God displacing a zeal for Communism; the Gulag displacing the officers' mess; Vermont displacing the Gulag; one wife displacing another; an outside life displacing near-death from cancer.

But there is also, and always, the irascible prickliness. In the index to Scammell's book we see "Solzhenitsyn — brutality ignored by" (four mentions); "Solzhenitsyn — cold weather preferred by" (four mentions); "Solzhenitsyn — gift-giving disliked by" (three mentions); and so on. The house in Vermont is apparently sumptuously appointed, but "the sword in the Hand of the Almighty" prefers to exercise himself in a draughty summer-house without curtains, with bare tiles, and a chipped enamel basin to wash in.

Scammell says he was "utterly, utterly dejected" when he finished the book. It has, he thinks, done nothing for his future in this country, where Russians are thin on the ground and not at all officially encouraged. He just might settle in the US.

Rise of superson

POOR Jasper Conran. I wonder how many journalists have arrived at his front door with their poison pens hidden from his security cameras, keen to accuse him of a crime he couldn't help committing, the crime of having that man for a father and that woman for a mother.

I admit, I'm as guilty as the rest. What I hadn't expected was to be met by a small and rather forlorn figure, with large sad eyes, sitting behind a desk several sizes too large for him, in a gleaming white building which he appears to be having some difficulty in filling with clothes.

Jasper Conran has the air about him of someone who got smacked around a lot at school by the other boys. He was sent away to boarding school at the age of seven and to New York at 15. At 17 he decided he wanted to be a fashion designer and bought himself a sewing machine. At 18 he set up his own company. Now, seven years later, Jasper Conran clothes can be bought in Japan, Australia, America, Hong Kong, The Seychelles and even I regret to say, South Africa.

"They are expensive. I think working women buy my clothes. That's who they're made for." Working women like your mother? "If you call me a mother, typical working woman yes."

The fact is that Jasper

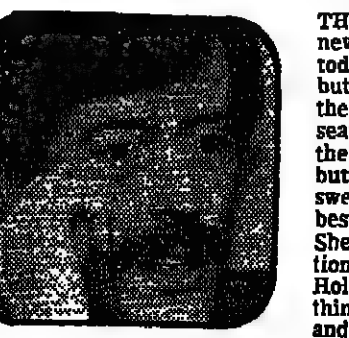
Conran is doing very nicely thank you which is why some people are rather bitchy about him. On the phone he sounds like the kind of clothes designer you find in Tony Curtis films, shrilly camp, with a voice that keeps pausing in mid sentence to deliver an ooooh or an aah. In the flesh his campness blends in gently with his boyish enthusiasm and soon becomes unnoticeable. Only his vanity persists. This boy's efforts to present his best side to the camera would shame Mae West.

Otherwise he impressed me as someone who has his feet glued firmly to the ground — almost too firmly. To my untrained eye his autumn collection is spectacularly unspectacular for a 25-year-old, classic skirts and cashmere coats of the kind that unities wear to registry office weddings. Everything looks vaguely familiar, Jasper explains that it's all in the cut. But clearly choosing not to be outrageous has helped to get him into the shops quickly.

While many inhabitants of his notoriously cut-throat world are more than ready to be nasty about him behind his back he refuses to be bitchy in return, which strikes me as rather noble of him. "I've seen a lot of designers come and a lot of designers go. My ambition is to stay. I am the son of Superson and will stay, getting all tough with me."



CONRAN: ambition to stay — picture by E. Hamilton-West



COOKE: wild about the West

Myths go West

THEY appear to breed a new kind of hero in America today, tall, thin men, tough but sensitive, men who spent the sixties and seventies searching for themselves on the edges of the hippy trail but who only found the answer in the eighties. The best known example is Sam Shepard whose transformation from hobo-playwright to Hollywood's favourite everything, actor, writer, lover and Mr Cool, has been achieved with astounding swiftness. I predict a similar success for John Byrne Cooke.

Having graduated from Harvard with a degree in the literature of the romance languages he promptly joined a bluegrass group as

a guitarist. Next, he became a rock 'n' roll road man, first with Big Brother and the Holding Company and then with Janis Joplin, a close friend until her death. After that came several years trying to break into Hollywood as a script-writer. And now here he is in Britain, the proud author of 686 pages of *Wild West* adventure with a difference, called *The Snowblind Moon*.

The difference is that it doesn't read like a classic Wild West adventure at all, but more like an American War And Peace, with a touch of Harold Robbins thrown in. The Indians in this book wear squeaking moccasins and are no better at keeping their relationships together than the rest of us.

The *Snowblind Moon* attempts to deal with the reality of the West rather than the mythology. In the 40s and 50s, as Cooke explains, the Indians were clearly the baddies and we all cheered when the cavalry appeared on the horizon. In the 60s and 70s it was the Indians who got the cheers in films like *Soldier Blue* and *Little Big Horn*. The truth was much more complex.

There is an important item of biographical information about John Byrne Cooke that I have omitted to mention. He is the son of Alistair Cooke to whom he dedicates his first novel with thanks for instilling in him a love

People is written by Waldemar Januszczak

The dollar: what goes up can also tumble

Mrs Thatcher's triumphal visit to the United States was given short shrift by the financial markets yesterday as sterling plunged another 0.6 cents to a record low of \$1.0765. If the Prime Minister thought she would be able to persuade the President to do something about the strength of the dollar — like intervening more powerfully on the foreign exchange markets — she was bitterly disappointed. It leaves her scope for budget tax cuts even more limited. Far from trying to talk the dollar down the President seemed keen to keep it up. What was wrong, he argued, was not the strength of the dollar, but the weakness of other economies.

This appeared to be confirmed by revised figures for annual growth in the fourth quarter of last year (4.9 per cent instead of 3.9 per cent). And all this in the week when Mr Paul Volcker, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board (who has more power than anyone else in the world to influence interest rates) hinted that he might raise interest rates further despite the continuing strength of the dollar. These were the signals that commercial buyers and speculators were delighted to hear — the US currency was likely to go on up and the Government would not do anything about it.

The US administration cannot get away with both threatening to impose a 20 per cent across the board import surcharge to protect its industries from becoming uncompetitive while at the same time sweet talking the dollar upwards thereby making industry even more uncompetitive.

President Reagan warns against the danger of rekindling inflation (through higher import prices) if the dollar were to fall too sharply. But by encouraging a rise he is merely raising the height of the cliff from which the dollar will eventually fall. If the US wants to have any chance of a "soft landing" for the dollar (a prospect which gets more remote as it scales dizzy new heights) then the administration must do three things.

First it must stop talking up the currency. Second it must at least try to implement the system agreed at the Williamsburg summit two years ago under which the major economies intervene simultaneously in the \$200 billion a day foreign exchange markets to ward off the speculators. Third, and most important, it takes realistic steps to reduce the US \$200 billion plus Federal deficit — preferably as part of an international move in which European countries pursuing excessively tight regimes indulge in a bit of fiscal relaxation.

The most obvious moves would be to cut back defence spending (which has risen over 40 per cent in real terms in three years) and to reform the tax system in which practically everything that moves is tax deductible. It is this which has turned the US into a low saving country which has to attract a disproportionate amount of the savings of the rest of the world to fund its deficit.

On defence suffice to say that the US Congressional Budget Office pointed out this week that if defence spending were merely allowed to rise in line with inflation over the next five years it would improve the cumulative budget deficit by US \$345 billion in the four years to 1990. If growth were merely limited to 3 per cent the savings would be US \$182 billion over the same period. If President Reagan is right that high defence spending has brought the Russians back to Geneva then realistic offers of cuts could inject the right note of realism. The chain effect on the economies of the rest of the world would be entirely welcome.

The bitter road from Sidon

Daily attacks on Israeli forces in southern Lebanon, followed by heavy reprisals against Shi'ite villages, are making the end of Israel's occupation as ugly as anything that has happened since it began. Israel is not due to complete its withdrawal until the late summer. The date is arbitrary. No agreement could be reached with the Lebanese because Syria would not permit it, however much it might have been in Lebanon's own interests. The three stages of withdrawal then decided upon unilaterally have been timed to ensure that at the end the client Christian forces known as the South Lebanon Army can cope with the multitudinous guerrilla forces and finally take up the position it occupied north of the border before the Israeli invasion of 1982.

The locality has, however, been transformed since 1982. In place of the heavily armed but unwelcome Palestinians whom the invasion scattered to other parts of the Middle East Israel is now up against the indigenous Shi'ite Muslims. It hoped to come to terms with them, retaining the goodwill which was evident when its troops first arrived. In the event the antagonism has grown to a degree which makes impossible a withdrawal which is both slow and peaceful. The choice can therefore be presented as between making the retreat into a bitter rearguard action, with point-to-point casualties on both sides, and getting out completely as soon as possible. It can also be presented another way: between a future security based on the South Lebanon Army which may well prove illusory, and a future security which, in line with Israel's general method of making decisions on the hoof, is taken care of if and when the time comes. Since there is no part of the globe where events are less responsive to detailed forward planning than Lebanon, support in Israel for the second course grows by the day. The biggest — circulation newspaper and supporter of the Likud, Yedioth Aharonoth, demanded a total withdrawal immediately although, as a Defence Ministry official remarked, it would at one time not have demurred at the invasion of Turkey.

This is a desperately miserable situation for those who have to live with it, the Lebanese and the Israelis, and is emphatically not one which should lend itself to faraway noises of disapprobation. It is easy to specify what the policy of the State Department, the Foreign Office, and the European Community should be: viz. that the killing should stop. A lot of help that is! Of course it is utterly fascinating to follow the twists and turns of Levantine politics as President Assad shrewdly calculates and King Hussein shrewdly bides his time. But there are people there, Israelis, and Arabs, who want to get on with the real stuff of life. If outsiders have a contribution to make it is in helping all the people of the area to remember their common humanity. That will not happen until the peace process between Israel and the Palestinians receives more active encouragement. King Hussein and Mr Yasser Arafat have announced another agreement but are hesitant to say what it is. The rumour is that it goes a long way towards accepting the Reagan Plan and leaves the status of Jerusalem till later. With such a manifesto in the open, and with pressure on Israel to reverse its previous rejection of the Reagan Plan, the way would be open for negotiations more serious than any that have yet taken place. Israel cannot concentrate its mind on that problem — rather it cannot be required to do so, possibly against its will — until it is out of Lebanon.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

How TV gets its pit dispute news 'out of synch'

Sir, — Alan Protheroe and Alastair Hetherington (Letters, February 13 and 19) defend the BBC's coverage of the May 15 and 17 offering a general list of the issues covered. However, it is in the specific style of coverage that much of the misreporting occurs.

If they re-examine the coverage of the May 15 and 17 they will see why these news practices are being so closely questioned by both academics and the NUM. The May 15 case illustrates an intervention by the chief constable of Nottingham on behalf of working miners. The BBC took sound only from his press conference and made up its own visuals by captioning him against the violent arrest of a picket.

It then used a compilation of violent scenes, shot on different days in different locations and with different soundtracks. This included a shot of working miners walking through a "wall of abuse," apparently from unseen pickets shouting "Scab! Scab! Scab!"

It might be argued that this alone was suspect, because the use of library film was unacknowledged and there was no balancing compilation to illustrate the NUM's accusation of police violence against miners.

Unfortunately the malpractices did not stop there. On May 17 a further compilation was shown, in part using the same unacknowledged library footage. The chant of "Scab" was reused, though it no longer fitted the "lip-synch" of the pickets. And the working miners of two days before were seen again, this time peacefully going with only the sound of a passing bus to disturb them.

As people — policemen, pickets, and working miners — get hurt on picket lines, anything which incandescently questioned the BBC's coverage could not be allowed to pass. Mr Protheroe therefore told us which was the true soundtrack for these compilations, and what instructions he gives to film and video tape editors as to the use of library footage, compilations, and "non-synch" sound-effects in news reporting? — Yours faithfully,

(Dr) Eric Northey, Manchester Polytechnic School of Film and Television.

Sir, — Will Alastair Hetherington (Letters, February 13) please note that Greg Philp was not criticising ITN for "highlighting the cost of the coal dispute." He was criticising its inference that these costs were the miners' fault. — Yours sincerely, Sandra Maudrell, 130 Church Road, Bolton, Lancashire.

Sir, — Indeed we live in stirring times. A court declares that Parliament rather than the government of the day represents the British state, and the assistant director-general of the BBC replies to criticism of news bias (Letters, February 13): a privilege surprisingly extended to my complaint of February 8. I am not a trade union general secretary, and 14 professors who wrote to the BBC in April 1981 complaining about news coverage of the Labour movement.

In response to Mr Protheroe's claim that the BBC has reported the coal dispute "in a fair and objective manner," I wish to point out that:

My concern has always been with news, not current affairs. The reason is that the main source of news for 90 per cent of adults is television news, and that's where bias counts.

It is not much of a reply for Alan Protheroe to point out that many aspects of the dispute have been covered

on Newsnight. This programme is more impartial in its coverage: I have cited its wording to show up bias in the BBC news (Letters, April 10, 1984).

And it is no reply at all to say miners' allegations of police atrocities were reported by the BBC in Taking Liberties on November 8, 1984, because this was an Open Space programme originating with Sheffield Women's Policewatch, and not the BBC.

My question is: why has so little of this material appeared on the news at 6 pm and 9 pm?

My complaint was not that BBC news omits all reference to the cost of the dispute, the innovation of national police force, miners' support groups, etc. Rather, this sprinkling has been added to provide a flavour of impartiality, while the main focus of reporting has been on the "picket-line violence." There is a balance, but it is a weighted balance.

This is apparent in phrasing. Consistently BBC news has referred to "uncompetitive pits," "new faces" (who wouldn't like one of those?) rather than "strike-breakers," to "blame

where blame is due?" rather than to "the coal dispute." In a letter of August 31, 1984, I drew attention to this last wording, but the BBC continues to use it, even when it risks the absurdity of speaking of "the two sides in the miners' strike."

How would you defend these phrases as impartial, Mr Protheroe?

It may take thought to come up with impartial phrasing, but in fact the BBC has the means to do it quickly and easily because, unlike ITN, it has a secret committee for controlling the news: the DNCA committee.

How would you defend your committee, Mr Protheroe, when it doesn't even impose neutral phrasing?

The assistant director-general says the BBC has reported fairly and objectively. Yet as far as one can tell, it's not a topic on which the BBC publishes a fact sheet — the corporation's hierarchy is in effect appointed by the Government (Letters, February 23, 1984).

With this structure, how can the BBC and BBC news really be independent of the Government? Antony Easthope, 27 Victoria Avenue, Didsbury, Manchester.

Sir, — In his letter (February 1) defending BBC TV's reporting of the miners' strike, Alan Protheroe cites the Open Space programme, Taking Liberties, as part of his evidence of the corporation's supposedly unbiased coverage.

He does not point out that as the BBC's only community access programme, Open Space is editorially separate from both news and documentaries, and is compiled by outside groups.

Taking Liberties was highly controversial inside the BBC and we in Sheffield Policewatch, the group which sponsored the programme in November, are certain that neither it, nor anything like it, would ever have been made if shown under the BBC's editorial banner. We were angered that Policewatch was deliberately excluded from the (lame) discussion which followed the broadcast, and from the Newswatch programme, also edited by the assistant director-general's letter.

In our view, based on 10 months' systematic monitoring, the BBC's coverage of events on picket lines is at most as "impartial" as the police are. We have witnessed: Patricia Stubbs, 41 Chelsea Road, Sheffield.

The fat file on CND leaders that Cecil Parkinson almost let out of his bag

Sir, — You published on February 21 an anonymous letter from someone who works in the House of Commons, revealing that millions of people, many of them Catholics, have written to their MPs in support of a recent bill.

I can confirm from personal experience that this is absolutely true: indeed, large numbers of Protestants and people with no recent record of church attendance did the same. What is more — and here your correspondent underestimates the persistence of these people — some of them were the same people who earlier wrote to their MPs about Ethiopia.

There are, however, a number of simple steps which your correspondent could suggest in order to deal with this problem. Any MP found reading a constituent's letter could have his voting rights withdrawn. Any voter who attempts to communicate with an MP could be charged with a crime. If this proves difficult to enforce, a simple and radical way of freeing MPs from their influences would be to have no elections at all. This would avoid the political difficulty of selecting a house of representatives such as the Catholic Church, the General Synod of the Church of England or CND, all of which are rid-



ded with people seeking to influence things. Such bans would attract ferocious but predictable opposition from Liberals and Liberal fellow-travellers in the other parties.

Alan Bell, MP (L. Beckwith-on-Tweed), House of Commons.

Sir, — I was dismayed to read the letter in the Evening Post of February 18 about the Protection of Unborn Children Bill from someone who claimed to work at the House of Commons, but did not have sufficient courage to sign the letter. It called for religious intolerance, yet was profoundly anti-Catholic in its language and sentiment.

I too work at the House of Commons. My boss and I never receive phone calls from Life or Spic. We

Miscellany at large

Sir, — How on earth do they do it? First we had the Californian codger kicking the tumbler of out-patients out of their chairs and seeing their brains with furious plaudits. Now we had the return match: Tina herself chopping up truth on Capitol Hill and chucking it in raw chunks of codswallop to a huddled audience of congressional fat cats.

Is it really politeness, or do the elected guardians of our liberties succumb completely to the gross flattery and sycophantic adulation of their constituents on these occasions? Either way, there's surely been nothing to match their foolish servility since Rosemont and Goldwater expired. — Yours sincerely, John Bannister, Family, Liverpool.

Sir, — Having read the parliamentary sketch in Tuesday's Financial Times ("Davies breaches the iron lady's armour"), I turned to that paper the next day, expecting to find an article let-ting David Maclean MP (ed. Letters, February 21). I discovered, however, that only Guardian reports attract the ire of that gentleman. I wonder why? — Yours, Thad Green, Hayling Island, Hants.

Sir, — As the NUT representative in a South London comprehensive school where union members include the head teacher, deputy head teacher, senior teacher, heads of English, maths, and humanity faculties, may I suggest that your definition of the NUT as speaking for "the poor, bloody infants" (Letters, February 20), is a little less than accurate. — C. B. Bateson, Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

Sir, — It seems that the time has come for me to abandon my campaign against "split initiatives." Since that interesting exchange of letters on this subject in your columns some weeks ago, I seem to have been bombarded with split initiatives by the BBC, ITV, and everybody else.

When I turned on my TV the other day — a programme called Arena. I think — and heard the author of the rumour-up for the Guardian's Book of the Year telling me the topography of the camel's back was broken, and I have downed tools. But I will still write whenever I hear a split initiative, and I will buy the book. (Lord) Winstanley, House of Lords.

In the fields of monetarism

Sir, — Victor Keegan's sentiments (Financial Guardian, February 18) about farmers in the context of the miners' strike may go down well with the average "urbanised isolated" Guardian reader, but is entirely typical of the simplistic type of "chink and cheese" contrasting often done these days.

For a start the two industries are vastly different in the way they are constituted and organised — mining a nationalised "high ratio of employees enterprise based on tight village communities" farming a countryside spread of "agric" businesses of all different sizes and types in the main "family working concerns with an ever declining" employee base. What both do have in common is the need for a proper and balanced "social" approach.

This might have gone too far in coal and food in the past, but the opposite could "destroy entire communities."

Drastically reducing agricultural protection, as Victor Keegan suggests, would in no way give the simple re-ported outline. The effect would be to centralise the bulk of British food production into the richer, higher producing larger unit areas of Eastern England and Scotland with much of the west of England, and the largely small family units going into decline and probably complete dereliction. This did start to happen in the early

Baton rouge

Sir, — With reference to a photograph caption in your issue of February 9, according to my information Dmitri Shostakovich, the Soviet composer, died in 1975 and at no time defected to the West. (Mrs) Lillian Carter, Woodbridge, Suffolk.

A fine line in Christianity that can charm the classroom

Sir, — Although perhaps not the principal burden of his Face To Faith article (February 18) on religion in schools, John Pearson has opportunely drawn our attention to what he calls "the whimsical ineptitude of many Anglican parochial clergy," and suggests that this "has given school religion a bad name."

I suggest further that this ineptitude, which clearly extends beyond the Church of England, frequently relates not only to the clergy's inability "to cope with the complexities of school, law, administration or philosophy," but also the failure of clerics to communicate effectively with the children and adolescents whom they address on their visits to schools.

This, too, is hardly their fault: they have often received no relevant training. If their ignorance of how schools operate gives religion a bad name amongst the adult population, the frequent failure of their attempts to interest pupils in the Christian faith gives religion a bad name also in the eyes of the young, which is a far more serious matter. There are, of course, notable exceptions, local clergy gifted in speaking to schoolchildren on their own wavelength. Another welcome factor, however, not mentioned by John Pearson, is that increasingly other exponents of



Christianity than the clergy are willing to provide that service which the local ministers have signally failed to deliver.

In my own experience as a Christian teacher, I have come across, or read of, para-church organisations, such as the Inter-School Christian Fellowship and Youth for Christ, which are prepared to enter schools by invitation to conduct assemblies and even religious education lessons. Their representatives, often ex-teachers but still young are usually extremely effective communicators, and hard-pressed RE staff are often very grateful for the service they provide. If one adopts a Christian stance, the presence of such visiting religionists may, of course, be welcomed. Many of them, however, are self-styled evangelists, and their presence raises thorny ques-

Making a clean sweep of the parliamentary lobbies

Sir, — The news that MTS has been spying on CND reminds me of a conversation I had with the then chairman of the Conservative Party, Cecil Parkinson, in December 1982.

Mr Parkinson had just appeared on the BBC TV programme Saturday Briefing in which I was one of two journalists invited to put questions to him. During the programme he made several sweeping statements about the political affiliations of leading members of CND which I challenged him to substantiate.

Afterwards, in the hospital room, he went to his briefcase and produced a thick list of names — apparently produced by the Ministry of Defence which gave details of alleged Communists and Trotskyists on the general council of CND and in Youth CND.

When I asked Mr Parkinson if I could have a copy of the document, he at first said he did not see any reason why I shouldn't. He was, however, immediately interrupted by an aide who said that the document was confidential. Subsequently, I rang Mr Parkinson's office to see if I could obtain a copy of the document, but was told I could not.

This conversation took place at BBC Television Centre on December 15, 1982. I made a note of it immediately on my return home because it seemed to show that the intelligence services were supplying Conservative politicians with the fruits of their spying activities. Chris Mallin, London SW9.

New plank for radio pirates

Sir, — Roger Allen's claim (Letters, February 15) that Radio Jackie has "all the answers" to community radio is silly. All Radio Jackie proved was that people who want to listen to Radio 2 will just as happily listen to an ersatz local version.

As Australia's 50-odd non-profit community stations have shown, "third force" radio can do far more than ape existing services. By providing a platform for local groups and individuals, they greatly extend the range of opinion and variety of cultural programming available. They give disadvantaged groups a voice, cover local events and issues and, above all, are owned by and are accountable to, the local

community. They are also a lot of fun. Roger Allen's prescription is: that alternative radio should transfer broadcasting power from big-money interests to small-money interests — a remedy that would guarantee more of the same. With the odd plug for a jumble sale.

The opportunity we now have to develop a real community-based sector in British radio is much too valuable to be left in the hands of the pirates like Jackie. For once, Britain could step off its broadcast pedestal and learn from the experience of other countries. — Yours sincerely, Bevan Jones, 80 Garrick Close, London W5.

Term of abuse

Sir, — The Guardian should be aware that "Viets" (as in "Viets poised" from page, February 15) is not an acceptable term. It continues to be used as a derogatory statement, analogous to "Japs," "Negroes" or "Pakis," etc. Doris Nipp, Toronto, Ontario.

A COUNTRY DIARY

MACHYNLEITH: Last century there was a craze for collecting ferns, people used to flock into Wales in pursuit of specimens. Tourist literature sometimes gave advice about the best fern hunting localities. And among these likely spots were the hills above Barmouth where, the guide books said, you might find a little spleenwort which some collectors called the Barmouth fern. Finding myself in Barmouth one morning, I remembered that advice and decided to go and look for this fern though, for all I knew, the Victorians might have been up long ago. My pocket guide to wild flowers informed me that this fern "has a curious predilection for old mineshafts" which sounded really adventurous. Off I went to inspect the abandoned mines above the town. But

though I searched and searched those mines my efforts were all in vain. It was a shining day, the mountain tops beckoned, I lost interest in ferns and had a very good day walking the hill instead. The setting sun was already in my eyes as I began the long descent from the uplands and it was early dusk when I came down the last steep lane into Barmouth. It was then I noticed a bright green fern in a ditch by the road. Now I was tired, my brain much slower than my eye, and I walked on 40 yards before I told myself that there had been something different about that little fern. So I turned back and it was well that I did so because soon I was able to go on my way rejoicing that despite the Victorian predators the Barmouth fern lives on.

WILLIAM CONDRY

WEEKEND SPORT

United in the McGuigan faith

Britain's best boxing prospect for years faces his sternest test tonight. Frank Keating sets the scene

FIRST THINGS first. As the week progressed, so increased the state of small ads in each edition of the Belfast Telegraph. They all amounted to the same thing—and now it is almost hopeless, for tonight's the night.

This is a typical ad from Thursday's desperate dozen: **URGENT**—Will exchange two reserved stand tickets for England v Northern Ireland soccer for McGuigan ticket anywhere in the Hall. Please phone....

Barry McGuigan. It can safely be said—and without disrespect—has done more to unite all factions in Ulster than an armoured-lorryload of Douglas Hurd. Devoted McGuigan supporters' clubs are as plentiful in the Catholic Falls as they are in Protestant Shankhill. The Rev. Paisley will be rooting tonight for the same fellow as the Cardinal.

Barry is a 23-year-old featherweight prizefighter, born just inside the Republic's border in Co. Monaghan but newly a naturalised Briton. He comes from a fighting family and one used to high drama—his father Pat was third in the Eurovision Song Contest for 1967, for instance.

The son sings different songs. In the past couple of years his electrically-charged, cruel and vicious talent in the boxing ring has been sending currents of pride and adrenalin through a majority of fellow-citizens of the hitherto careworn, depressed and beleaguered old cities of siege.

The only place, as you might expect, not officially able to see the fight live is in the Province itself. No matter, at all, and I noticed a man with a ladder surveying the chimney in the good old Esplanade Hotel, Bangor, yesterday. They are putting up an aerial beamed across to pick up Scotland's transmitter. A lot of others will be at it with the antennae all today.

Tonight Eurovision are coming along with the rest of the world. Tonight McGuigan moves into the big league. One can even detect,

horrors, a few shimmers of pessimism, waiting around the edges of that great wall of confidence and certainty and esteem that has helped carry the young man on its shoulders thus far.

He fights Juan Laporte of Puerto Rico, lately WBA champion of the world, who has never once been knocked off his feet in a career of 29 fights which includes seven championship bouts.

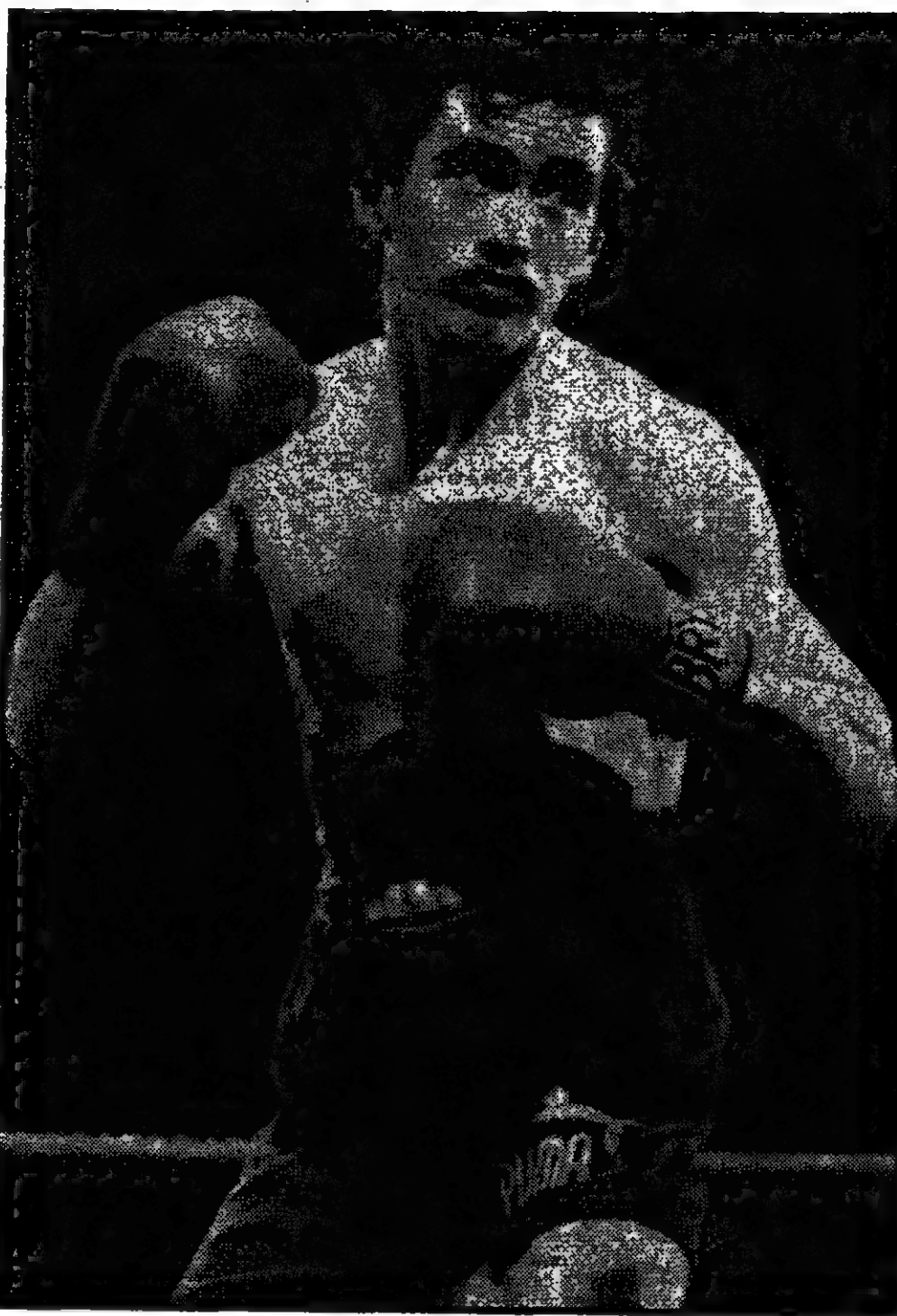
Laporte was beaten a year ago by the Panamanian, Wilfredo Gomez—some say uniluckily, some say because he was carefree and undisciplined in his training. Gomez has since lost the title to Azumah Nelson of Ghana. Laporte says with menace that he intends to re-assume his rightful place at the earliest opportunity—and if not, to usurp the WBC spoils held by Eusebio Pedrosa, also of Panama.

Either way, McGuigan must be rubbed out first.

We must allow for that almost imperceptible tremor of unease that I guarantee will riddle a few spines tonight, be they shrewd, unbiased, betting professionals or lively-livered fanthearts. For the real test, though, will make up, by all accounts, an occasion of such heaving, partisan intensity as these islands can have witnessed for many a year in the fair name of sporting endeavour. Seven thousand will be allowed in, but it will seem that seven times that number are there. I have never been to the uniquely clamorous cockpit they call the King's Hall. Apparently I will be hanging on to my very senses as well as my wits tonight. Should I live to tell the tale, it will be yours on Monday.

Meanwhile, get out the sandbags, then stay near your TV's volume control button tonight—and first put the cat out if it is of a slightly timorous nature.

We have to take it on trust—or at least, I do—that Laporte is a pretty fearsome customer; he has been, they say, extremely well taught; he has puff and a punch that can be concussive. If in his time he has



ALL IRELAND HERO... McGuigan tickets are in demand in Ulster

not been a glutton for the gym, as reports snake out, he has not been found wanting here. He arrived in Belfast a fortnight ago, shivered at the weather, but then laid out his tool kit and got on with his business. He has been early to bed. All his work has been done in camera—or if you like, without cameras. Rest assured he will be trying tonight.

Someone said yesterday that Laporte has arrived with only four weapons—a jab, a left hook, a right hook and an upper-cut. The bloke added that Laporte will not bother much with a jab. So, just three then, I said. The replying grin had an evil twist at the edges: "Why fiddle about with a rapier when you can cut a man in half with a machete?"

He might, I thought, brightening, have been talking about McGuigan. For there is little doubt that the long-armed, beautifully-built boy with a sparkle in his navy blue eyes is the type of professional fighter who comes along but rarely. Certainly in Britain.

To those in the know, the development in leaps and bounds in both McGuigan's technique and in his controlled two-fisted savagery has been remarkable in the last couple of years.

Just two thoughts nag. So weakly comprehensive have been the Irishman's recent victories that no one has any idea about how his defences might marshal themselves should the battle-hardened Laporte put them under any consistent pressure. And how might McGuigan cope if a cruel fight drags on towards the last bell? It is over three years since he had to fight 10 rounds.

The presence of the American CBS TV's No. 1 crew— they are looking for an incredible worldwide live audience of 30 million— a further hint that we might have one heck of a fight on our hands. The commentators, the legendary Gil Clancy—back in the islands where it all began—and the man himself, Sugar Ray Leonard, would not cross the Hollywood Boulevard, let

alone the Atlantic, to watch some of the Puerto Ricans and other Latin American fast-drivers who have been shipped over as opponents for British boxers occasionally in recent years.

Likewise, it is good to have the delightful knowing, Glinting Little Angelo Dundee said in town. Clancy said in the week: "Boxing on TV in America has found its appeal slumping in recent years because of the domination on fight cards of the Puerto Ricans and Latin Americans. Your little white country boy from Co. Monaghan could change all that."

On the same tack, I remember Angelo's brother, Chris, who promotes fights in Miami saying last year: "Forgetting about television for the moment, the fight game in the US actually started going down when the Army began drafting all the young men. The Army taught them a trade or it paid for education later, and any man with a good trade isn't about to get knocked on his butt to make a dollar. It just opens the door for all these hungry Latinos."

There is no way of pretending that McGuigan is short of a crust. On his days off the boy might work at the family grocery store in Clones—but the Alfa Romeo is parked outside.

As Willie Pastano put it one time: "Boxing got me out of my edging hell-hole, baby. Got me out meeting people. It's been good to me. I was no brain, no effing Einstein. I wanted to play it a little safe, and boxing was about the safest I thought. But if I had a chance to do anything else when I was growing up, God Himself couldn't have dragged me into a fist fight."

McGuigan's hunger is for fame and a championship. Or rather, as he says, "even if I didn't win, I would just like to fight for one."

I wouldn't like to be in Laporte's shoes tonight. On the other hand, I'm none too sure I'd feel all that safe and snug in McGuigan's, avoiding those sandbags, the lot of us.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Paul Fitzpatrick on the return of a legend

Leigh go for Murphy's lure

ALMOST THREE years ago at Whitehaven's Recreation Ground, Alex Murphy delivered a half-time rollicking of such passion and vehemence that it has passed into Rugby League folklore.

The objects of his apoplectic invocations were the Leigh players who, in the last game of the season, were in danger of throwing away the League championship against a Whitehaven side that had been bottom of the table all season.

Murphy's words, probably carried less poetry than those of Napoleon as he addressed his men before the Battle of the Pyramids—but they had a similar effect. Leigh roused themselves, swept Whitehaven aside, and won their first championship for 76 years.

The current crop of Leigh players know what to expect. There will be no championship, but relegation unless a calamitous slide is not averted. And yesterday the club brought back Alex Murphy with the hope that he can still work his miracles. Murphy has been unemployed since last August when he was ousted from Whitehaven by a sensational clash with the vice-chairman Maurice Lindsay.

He will now need all his powers of oratory and persuasion for a losing run of nine consecutive games has placed Leigh in a perilous place from bottom, their travails really gathering intensity last November when in consecutive weeks, they lost their two outstanding players.

Life with Britain's losing Lions, page 17

ern. Des Drummond and John Woods, with serious injuries, it was clear on Thursday that something was brewing at Hilton Park when, to his deep bitterness, Colin Tyrer was sacked.

He had been brought in as assistant to John Woods of the club's young player-coach, but had failed to halt the decline. Murphy now returns as manager but will clearly be in full control.

Brian Sharples, Leigh's chairman, expressed the hope that will now be invested in Murphy. "Our situation is desperate," he said, "and Alex is the only man who can give us a chance of avoiding relegation. He returns by public demand, although this must be the biggest challenge of his career."

No man in the game arouses greater extremes of passion than Murphy. He is loathed by some, doled by others, expressed the hope of coaching, in an age gradually moving towards a more cerebral approach, have been questioned. But two things are beyond dispute—that he is one of the greatest players the game has seen and that his record as a coach at Leigh (twice, before) Warrington, Salford and Wigan is testimony to his powers of motivation.

Murphy's first task will be to prepare Leigh for their first round Silk Cut Challenge Cup tie at home to Huddersfield tomorrow, and it will be a surprise if he does not start with a victory.

It will be one of the curiosities of this season's Cup campaign—bought about by the cold and frost—that one day, either Warrington or Wigan, will be through to the quarter-finals while eight other sides are still waiting to complete their first round games.

Today's televised match between Warrington and Wigan offers exciting possibilities and the chance of a capacity crowd. Wigan have won 11 League matches in succession, only two short of the record, and last Sunday disposed of Batley in impressive style in the first round.

Search for the bright new wizards of Oz

IT IS SPECULATION season in Australia right now. Among those who still care about cricket rather than just the multi-coloured spectacle, there lurks the thought that sometime, when the World Championship and attendant fuss is over, Australia are going to have to pick a team to go to England and hold on to the Ashes.

The argument takes a slightly different form than it does in England, with the endless letters from Nottinghamshire in support of Randall and from Hampshire—or now Surrey?—for Trevor Jesty. In the magazine Australian Cricket this month, Karlene, wife of Ian, wrote in favour of the wicketkeeper Wayne Phillips: "With his cheeky grin, huffy moustache and sexy little bum, Wayne adds life and excitement to an otherwise boring team."

The touring party is probably not going to be picked on the Karen Preckford scale of values, though the way things are going in Australia, I rule out nothing. In any case, I think we can take comfort that whatever deficiencies there may be in the England selection process, the Australian set-up makes theirs infinitely worse.

On January 3, Australia emerged from a run of disasters to record a stunning win over West Indies. It was a moment when a team should have gelled to go on and deal with England. But since then the Australian summer has lurched into its endless twilight of what the grand old-timer Bill O'Reilly calls "hit-and-giggle" cricket. Last Sunday, only four of the Sydney heroes were in the team that beat England: Border, Wessels, Lawson and McDermott. The rest have vanished because of injury, loss of form or their supposed unsuitability for the one-day game.

Greg Ritchie, for instance, who replaced Hughes at Sydney, has hardly batted since; Andrew Hilditch, who topped the averages against the West Indies, has just seen his form go. So who will prefer to go to England, Ritchie or Dean Jones, the man of the one-day mo-

ment? The tour is going to be far more concerned with Test matches.

The eventual decision is likely to depend heavily on one man's scale of values. There are only three Australian selectors, two recent Test players, Greg Chappell and Rick McCosker, and an older, less well-known figure, Lawrie Sawle. It is generally believed that Chappell's voice carries most weight.

This has advantages. The English pattern is to make players into selectors only when they have been retired long enough to have lost touch. Chappell was playing only a year ago. But he took into retirement some heavy ideological baggage about which players he did and did not like, and some of the most able leaders left in the Australian game, like David Hookes, the pugacious if eccentric captain of South Australia, and Dirk Wellham, the New South Wales captain, appear to be out of the reckoning.

Now with Hughes opting out of captaincy, Hogg uncertain of his place and Lawson joining the hooligan

Matthew Engel in Melbourne looks at Australia's men most likely to tour England this summer

tendency, there is neither an alternative to Border as captain within the team nor even a convincing candidate to be vice-captain. The job could end up going to the Afrikaaner Kepler Wessels, who only qualified for Australia two seasons ago.

Chappell and Co's easiest job may well be picking the attack, which will probably consist of the five bowlers who played against England this week—Lawson, McDermott, McCurdy, Alderman and O'Donnell—plus the two spinners who helped avoid the West Indian whitewash, Holland and Bennett.

On Sunday, the Australian attack did not look especially impressive, although the England batsmen did their best to make it seem fearful. Lawson was concentrating on line and length, and McDermott was

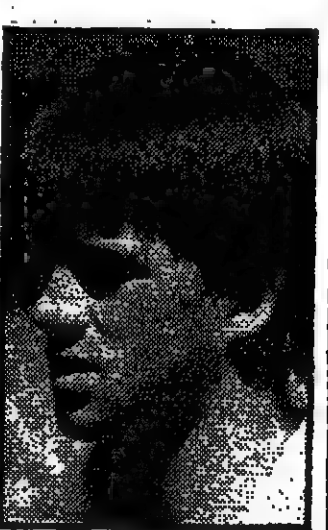
not fully fit; in England they should form a much sharper spearhead, supported by Alderman, the English-conditions specialist, and O'Donnell, an all-rounder who may have Bothamesque tendencies, something the Australians have long coveted.

The bowler who impressed the England players most was McCurdy, who surprised several of them with his pace and bounce (not least Gaiting, whose injured hand is a monument to it) and is said to be capable of busting away all day if necessary. This could well take him to England in preference to the fading Hogg, the injury-prone Rackemann and dear old Jeff Thomson, who is still chuntering away for Queensland.

There is another young fast bowler, David Gilbert of

New South Wales, who is widely regarded as the quickest, day-in, day-out, in the country. But he has already won a scholarship to play for an English county second XI this summer, and is evidently being set up to be the reserve if anyone gets injured. This will probably work against Gilbert's own chances of getting in the 16 and against Hogg, who is more likely to go if the Australians decide they can afford to take a 17th player.

The wicketkeeping situation is not now considered a problem. With Rixon—currently injured—regarded as the No. 1 for Tests and Phillips of the sexy bum as the one-day choice, a capable deputy and, at a pinch, a good enough specialist bat as well. That still leaves room for seven full-time batsmen. We may assume that Border, Wessels and, if the poor old fellow does not disintegrate completely, Kim Hughes are certainties. That means the selectors will probably be perusing four from Graeme Wood, the old kamikaze kid, who plays with great consistency, without ever



O'DONNELL: Bothamesque tendencies?

looking at a world-beater, Hilditch, Ritchie, whose tubbiness and poor fielding work against him, the talented Tasmanian David Boon, the powerful opener Steve Smith, Sunday's stars Jones and Kerr, and perhaps, if they want some experience, Graeme Yallop.

I am happy to leave the Australians to sort out the problem, except to say that I think they would be insane not to pick Kerr, who looked a class player in Melbourne, and has proven form on English wickets. He made a stack of runs for Nottinghamshire second XI when he won a scholarship two years ago.

Some Australian commentators are already comparing 1985 to 1972, when a young and mainly unknown team went to England and began to take shape as the Lillee-Chappell-Marsh side that helped transform cricket. But England clung on to the Ashes in 1972 and all the evidence of India suggests that 1985 ought to be England's year.

It seems funny not having Lillee, Chappell and Marsh around to hate, but this brief trip to Australia is whetting one's appetite for the new Australian generation. If the English summer is kinder than the winter, we could be in for a brilliant cricket season.



THREE OF A MIND... to go to England (from left) Robbie Kerr, touted as the new Greg Chappell, Rod McCurdy, the bowler who has impressed the England players most, and Dean Jones, the man of the one-day moment. Pictures by Adrian Murrell



McDERMOTT: With Lawson a sharp spearhead

WEEKEND SPORT: TWO

Midwinter freeze leaves Spurs with home fire

Robert Armstrong on today's full League programme as soccer emerges from the enforced break

FOOTBALL managers are fond of proclaiming that the League Championship is as much a test of strength and stamina as any of the other virtues that make for a successful team. This season the durability of the leading clubs could well be the decisive factor in the race for the title as they attempt to cram a total of 17 fixtures into a period of 11 weeks, weather permitting.

The FA Cup is likely to complicate matters even further with only Tottenham and Arsenal among the top seven in the unwanted position of being able to concentrate solely on the League. But even Spurs, not to mention Manchester United and Liverpool, could find themselves seriously stretched by their involvement in Europe, particularly if injuries further deplete a squad already weakened by the loss of Galvin, Ardiles, Allen, and Miller.

Peter Shreeves is bound to be hoping that the midwinter freeze that has shut

down White Hart Lane for the best part of two months has now done its worst. When Tottenham have completed their game against West Bromwich Albion at the Hawthorns today, the First Division table will show that 10 of their remaining 16 matches are at home. Traffic congestion in North London could soon be as intense as fixture congestion.

Such a heavy preponderance of home games is bound to enhance Tottenham's challenge as they seek to close a four-point gap on the leaders, Everton. Howard Kendall's side are among a clutch of title contenders, including Manchester United, Arsenal, Sheffield Wednesday, and Southampton, who must visit White Hart Lane in the coming weeks. It is surely no exaggeration to say that the cockerel will provide the cockpit of the championship.

Of course, in theory any one of several clubs could still achieve the League and Cup double last accomplished by Arsenal in 1971. While Manchester United or Southampton may well win the Cup, their League form is hardly irresistible partly because United leak too many goals and the Saints score too few. It would not be beyond the powers of Liverpool to mount a typical spring surge, with say 14 or 15 wins from their remaining games, but that is asking a lot even by their standards.

If Spurs defeat West Bromwich and

Everton drop points at Leicester — who always pose a volatile threat to leading clubs — the betting odds are certain to swing sharply towards the Londoners. Shreeves restores the Scottish youth international, Ally Dick, for his first senior game of the season in place of Galvin on the left flank. West Bromwich may also give Gary Owen his first full game for a year and bring back Robertson after suspension, following the withdrawal of Statham with a knee injury.

Manchester United have tended to avoid defeat by Arsenal in recent years and there is no compelling reason to suppose that the pattern will be any different at Highbury today. Don Howe has chosen to bring back his two wayward internationals, Woodcock and Nicholas, for this testing occasion while the United manager, Ron Atkinson, seems likely to restore Stapleton to his attack in place of Whiteside who has lost his scoring touch.

Predictably Howe claims that his decision has nothing to do with the fact that both England and Scotland are involved in World Cup qualifying games next Wednesday. However, Woodcock is under no illusion that he is playing for his international place: "It's up to me to prove to both Don Howe and Bobby Robson that I am playing well." Surprisingly Talbot is dropped in favour of Davis in midfield.

Everton would probably look askance at anyone burling about the romance of the Cup following their abrasive encounter with Telford which left half a dozen players on the treatment table. Sharp misses the game at Leicester with an ankle injury while the centre back, Monthfield, faces a late fitness test on a back injury which could cause him to miss his first game this season. Howard Kendall brings Harper into midfield and moves Steven forward into a striking partnership with Gray.

Kendall will have a first-hand opportunity to assess the talents of another striker, Gary Lineker, who is thought likely to favour the Merseysiders if he decides to leave Filbert Street when his contract expires in the summer. Gordon Milne, who claims he has received no firm offer for Lincolshire, will select his squad from a group of 13 that includes Mark Bright, a young striker who could eventually replace the England international.

Southampton also include a couple of reserve strikers, Baird and Puckett, in their squad for the game against Nottingham Forest at City Ground. Baird is expected to replace Jordan, who begins a two game suspension, but Holmes, the club captain, is still out of action with a groin injury. The Saints have taken points from 10 of their 14 away games this season though Brian

Clough claimed yesterday that his team's recent games in Iraq would give Forest the edge in match fitness.

Liverpool have an excellent opportunity to improve their League position by beating bottom-placed Stoke at Anfield. However, the champions are likely to be without Hansen who has an injured knee. Molloy may be brought into the defence. The Potters will give a late fitness test to Chamberlain who has a groin strain while Hudson begins a two match suspension.

The East Anglian clubs, Ipswich and Norwich, turn their back on the League for a day in an effort to make progress in their much-delayed Milk Cup semi-final. The first leg at Portman Road marks the first occasion on which semi-finalists have played on a Saturday but neither will complain about a delay which has given them time to get key players fit after injury.

Gates returns to the Ipswich attack, having recovered from a gashed calf, while Channon has used a three week break to rest his injured ankle. Both Deehan and D'Arvy hope to continue their record of having scored in every round of this season's competition. "Losing does not bear thinking about," said the Norwich striker. "We have been the bridesmaid and not the bride so many times."



SOCCER DIARY

Patrick Barclay

Cheesed off in Parma

WHILE everyone talks about Wilkins, Hatley, and other glamorous foreigners, Italy continues to manufacture the minor melodramas for which its soccer industry has infinite capacity.

Recently a Second Division match at Parma was held up for seven minutes by fog. After the final whistle, with promotion-chasing Bari surprisingly on the wrong end of a 3-0 scoreline, the incensed manager told the referee, Angelo Pezzella, that he had failed to allow time for the interruption.

Pezzella was deeply embarrassed when a linesman confirmed the error. He made for the dressing-room to retrieve the players, only to discover that some had already removed their kit and were showering. This, according to an obscure rule, precluded their reappearance on the field. So Pezzella declared the match postponed, giving Bari a second chance. Then the pasta really hit the fan. In the dressing-room the Bari president's brother was president of the League. Questions were asked in Parliament, where a Fascist MP accused Pezzella of having sabotaged not only the future Second Division but Italy's beloved football pool, Totocalcio.

When the match was replayed, Parma eased unbearable tension by scoring a late winner. But poor Pezzella, a bank clerk with a degree in political science, remained in disgrace. Fellow referees, believing that he had discredited a noble calling, are expected to strike him off the list. And a new word has crept into the Italian vocabulary: a blunder is now known as a "pezzellata".

DUE TO press-box congestion Ronald Atkin, of the Observer, and Deryk Brown, of the Sunday Times, had to dictate their running reports on York's draw with Liverpool from a telephone kindly installed in the home dugout. Denis Smith and company, much amused, greeted their intermittent appearances with quips like: "Aren't you going to ring the missus, then?" This was a opportunity for Atkin, who is married to the Observer's Julie Welch. "I don't think so," he replied. "She's doing Chelsea-Newcastle this afternoon."

THERE'S always trouble, sportsmen tend to say, when politicians poke their noses into our business. The latest kiljoily is Swaziland's Home Affairs Minister, King Mswela, who warns his country's champions, Highlanders, to wear their seat belts when they visit Lesotho on African Cup duty.

"A lot of beautiful girls may be made available to you before the game," he says. "Such traps are aimed at destabilising you. You are going to war and must be on the lookout for all kinds of weapons."

Highlanders are 4-1 up from the first leg, which reminds me of the old joke about why Southampton's players got into trouble in Sweden a few years back: they misunderstood Lawrie McMenamy's instructions, which were to get the second leg over as soon as possible.

BURNLEY'S plight saddens Don Proud, head teacher from Nelson, who has poured his feelings into 15 stanzas. It's almost a modern history of the club, pride turning sour as he relates: "Up there in the boardroom they set out on a new track. They wanted an outsider in and Miller got the sack. Then came along a bigger, name."

With even bigger job. Soon had lost the captain's job. Shortly afterwards Dobson became player-manager at Bury, where he was joined by another former Turf Moor favourite, Frank Casper. Once fans had seen John Connolly Place the ball on Robson's head.

Now flashy blobs in pale cream maccs. Crept round the ground instead. And Steven's high at Everton. Hatfield at Oxford's top. While Burnley sink down further. As they fight to beat the drop. If they go down to Fourth. And they might get there in a hurry. They'll pass Dobson, Casper, Jack, James. All going up with Bury.

Charles Burgess

Chelsea in for Johnston

SOCCER

Chelsea, Aston Villa and Queens Park Rangers are the clubs leading the hunt to sign Liverpool's midfield player Craig Johnston, who has been put on the transfer list by the champions' manager Joe Fagan.

Liverpool are likely to accept around £500,000 for the 24-year-old Australian who has become dissatisfied at not being able to hold down a regular first-team place, having made 132 appearances for the club since being bought from Middlesbrough for £850,000 in 1981.

Chelsea tried to sign the talented and pacy player in the summer when Liverpool gave him leave of absence to remain in Australia while his wife gave birth to their daughter—christened Chelsea. The Chelsea chairman Ken Bates travelled Down Under to try to persuade Johnston to leave Middlesbrough but to no avail at the time.

Aston Villa have already revealed their interest as they attempt to rebuild their European Cup winning team of three years ago while Rangers have made a more private inquiry. One problem for any of the three would be the paying of the considerable salary to which Johnston has become accustomed at Anfield.

Another possibility being debated within Anfield is whether they attempt to use Johnston as bait to attract the striker who will eventually replace Ian Rush, likely to move to Italy after the end of next season. The three strikers in whom they, and many others, are interested are Chris Waddle of Newcastle, Peter Davenport of Nottingham Forest, and Gary Lineker of Leicester, all of whom fulfil their contracts this summer.

Liverpool's problem is that any replacement will have to

spend some time in the reserves waiting for Rush to leave. The club are loath to be caught on the hop as they were when Souness, their former captain, moved to Italy last summer with no one ready to ably fill his midfield berth.

Meanwhile the former Liverpool and Arsenal midfielder player, Ray Kennedy, has joined the North-eastern non-League club Ashington. One of the most successful players of the past 15 years left Hartlepool United at the end of last season, where he was player-coach, and took over as manager of a club in Cyprus.

Doncaster Rovers have signed another Scot, the 19-year-old Clyde striker Raymond Deane, for £40,000. Deane, a 6ft 2in youth international who is serving a two-match ban, was being watched by several First Division clubs.

Swansea City's new manager John Bond has made his fifth signing for the struggling Third Division club, the 31-year-old midfielder Barry Powell, formerly with Wolves, Coventry and Derby, and just released by Burnley.

Billy Rafferty, one of the game's nomads, could be on the move again. He will sign a short-term contract next week for Bristol Rovers, which would be his sixth club — provided Steve White, also a striker, can agree personal terms to go to Bournemouth in exchange.

Swindon Town of the Fourth Division could be saved from the threat of bankruptcy by an unnamed international company based in the town. The club have £500,000 debts, which include rent arrears for its council-owned ground.

Brian Wilson on today's matches in Scotland

Celtic hopes on the line

The race for the Scottish Premier Division title could be all over bar the shouting today. If Aberdeen can secure the points at Celtic Park they will almost certainly be too far ahead of their only serious challengers.

Celtic came within one point of closing the gap just before the New Year. But a run of postponements and a bad defeat at Dundee two weeks ago have left David Hay's men again well behind.

The Aberdeen manager, Alex Ferguson, pointed out yesterday that a win will leave his side needing an average of just one point per game from

their last nine fixtures to be sure of retaining the title. And few would doubt Aberdeen's capacity to do that.

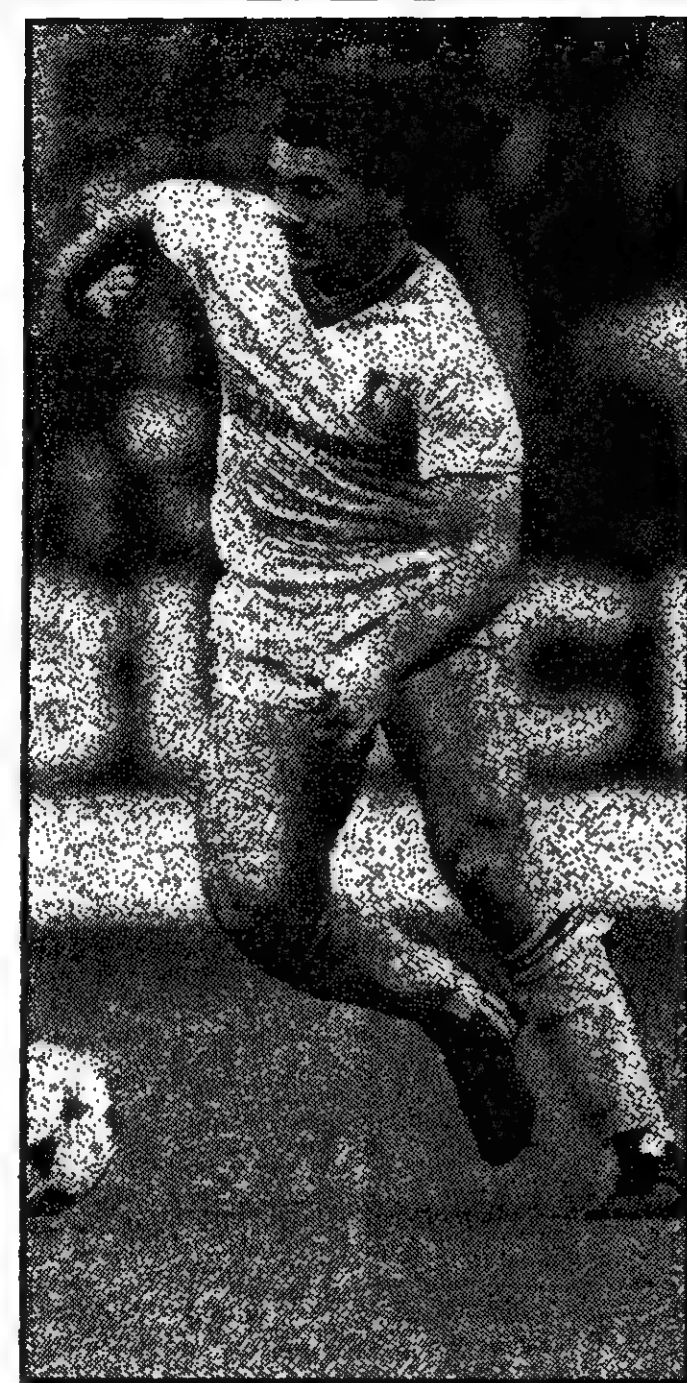
Much more dubious though is Celtic's capacity for consistency. Even a good result today will mean that their form on the run-in would have to reach rather greater heights than have been in evidence throughout most of this season.

Celtic had good news yesterday when their winger David Provan, who had been sent home with flu symptoms, announced himself fit. In recognition of the importance of today's game Celtic have gone

to Seamill in Ayrshire — the training venue they normally use before major cup ties and European games.

For Rangers there is little left to play for after their Scottish Cup exit last week. It will be interesting to note both the size of their travelling support and its attitude towards the manager, Jock Wallace, at Tynecastle Park, where they meet Hearts.

Derek Johnstone, recently signed as a striker from Chelsea, finds himself at centre-half in the Rangers defence, a symptom of how erratic Wallace's team selections have been throughout the season.



JOHNSTON: Salary expectations may be problem

UEFA's Berlin wall

ENGLAND'S chances of staging the 1988 European Championships continue to improve as the future over the decision by UEFA's top choice, West Germany, not to include West Berlin as a venue, continues. Yesterday Chancellor Helmut Kohl said that the Federation should reconsider its offer to stage the championships if West Berlin cannot be one of the seven host cities.

Kohl said that the Federation should do everything possible to get West Berlin approved and added: "If this effort does not succeed, and the Federation is forced to exclude Berlin then it would be good for them to consider if the championship is worth this price." England are the reserves.

The Federation originally proposed West Berlin, which is over 100 miles within East Germany, as the venue for the opening game but they only got the UEFA go ahead on condition that they change their minds. The West Germans knew that Soviet bloc opposition to the divided city's inclusion would damage their chances.

The issue has become a big one in West Germany. After a special session of the Bundestag the foreign minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher said: "I appeal to the Federation to rectify the damage done to Berlin. In and for Berlin beat the hearts of Germans and soccer friends. The Federation cannot deprive them of this."

A Social Democrat member of parliament's sports committee, Peter Genscher, said: "If the UEFA committee is so influenced by the political orientation of certain of its members that they reflect this important move, then the Federation must be prepared to give up the championships."

The head of the federation Hermann Neubauer said yesterday: "We used all thinkable diplomatic means to convince UEFA that at no time should the German Democratic Republic be excluded from the Games. But on all important questions UEFA takes great pains to get members to vote unanimously." He said that West German politicians were grabbing at the chance to believe, too a London application might not get much support from South American members after the conflict with Argentina.

The Irishman, president during the games in Montreal in 1976 and Moscow four years later, is among those asking questions about who would lead the London bid after the demise of the GLC.

Charles Burgess

Maurice Hamilton

Tyrrell boosted by turbo effect

MOTOR RACING

The Tyrrell team yesterday maintained their reputation for harbouring the best-kept motor racing secrets when they unexpectedly announced a deal with Renault which will give the British team turbo-charged engines this season.

Apart from the recent controversy over Tyrrell's alleged technical infringements last year, the team's fortunes appeared to have reached a new low when it looked as if they would have to rely on the Ford-Cosworth engine for another season. It is certain that Tyrrell's drivers, Stefan Bellof and Britain's Martin Brundle, would not have qualified for any of the grands prix with the non-turbo-charged engine.

The agreement with Renault, signed in Paris last Monday, means two most promising young drivers are back in serious contention, and certainly on a par with Lotus and Ligier who also use the French V6 engine.

The design of a new car began last year while Tyrrell continued negotiations with

various turbo manufacturers and the final details to suit the Renault engine are now being carried out. Testing will begin at the end of April and, in the meantime, the team will use the 1982 Cosworth cars for the first grand prix in Brazil on April 7.

Tyrrell's legal dispute with FISA took a new turn yesterday when the sport's governing body said they were considering Tyrrell's offer of withdrawing legal proceedings in return for the team's reinstatement in the 1984 championship. The dispute centres on Tyrrell's suspension for alleged contraventions of fuel regulations at last year's Detroit Grand Prix.

Meanwhile, Tyrrell are continuing discussions with potential sponsors, including Systime Computers, the British company which last year lent the team valuable support during a troubled season.

Tyrrell are the last team to switch to turbo-charged engines, a development sparked off by Renault when they arrived in Formula One in 1977. The final irony is that Ken Tyrrell was the first to be offered the use of Renault engines to power his six-wheel car in 1976. He turned the deal down.

Charles Burgess

Killanin's doubts

SPORTS POLITICS

The Greater London Council yesterday decided in favour of making a bid for the 1992 Olympic Games, even though they are not likely to exist by that time. Meanwhile the London Olympic Committee president Lord Killanin expressed doubt about a London bid—revealed exclusively in the Guardian this week—being successful.

Lord Killanin, referring to the government's interest in staging the Games, said: "I think that a politically motivated bid, would remind IOC members of Mrs Thatcher's part in the boycott of the Moscow Games. I believe, too, a London application might not get much support from South American members after the conflict with Argentina."

The Irishman, president during the games in Montreal in 1976 and Moscow four years later, is among those asking questions about who would lead the London bid after the demise of the GLC.

However after yesterday's meeting of the GLC's sports sub-committee a statement said: "The GLC is the only city wide authority in any kind of position to make such a move and be in accordance with the IOC charter."

Dick Palmer, the BOA secretary, said yesterday: "If the National Olympic Committee approves this idea that we host the 1992 Olympic Games, we would of course welcome this decision of the GLC sports sub-committee. Most of the facilities used by the games would be within the GLC area, so the first thing to do would be to consult with the GLC and set up a London Olympics feasibility study."

BADMINTON: England's decision not to award full caps for the first time in 55 years of matches against Scots and Welsh, is rebounding close to embarrassing when a select side scraped home by only 4-3 against the Scots at Hinkley, Leicestershire. Chris Dobson and Dipak Tailor had to save a match point at 16-16 in the final game against Alex White and Jan Pringle to ensure victory.

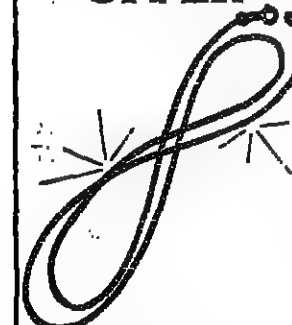
Highlanders are 4-1 up from the first leg, which reminds me of the old joke about why Southampton's players got into trouble in Sweden a few years back: they misunderstood Lawrie McMenamy's instructions, which were to get the second leg over as soon as possible.

BURNLEY'S plight saddens Don Proud, head teacher from Nelson, who has poured his feelings into 15 stanzas. It's almost a modern history of the club, pride turning sour as he relates: "Up there in the boardroom they set out on a new track. They wanted an outsider in and Miller got the sack. Then came along a bigger, name."

With even bigger job. Soon had lost the captain's job. Shortly afterwards Dobson became player-manager at Bury, where he was joined by another former Turf Moor favourite, Frank Casper. Once fans had seen John Connolly Place the ball on Robson's head.

Now flashy blobs in pale cream maccs. Crept round the ground instead. And Steven's high at Everton. Hatfield at Oxford's top. While Burnley sink down further. As they fight to beat the drop. If they go down to Fourth. And they might get there in a hurry. They'll pass Dobson, Casper, Jack, James. All going up with Bury.

GUARDIAN OFFER



FINE GOLD CHAINS

A simple chain is often far more effective than the elaborate pendants and necklaces available from high street jewellers. These fine ballmarked gold chains are made with box links which help them to maintain a smooth line round neck and wrist. Available in three sizes: 18, 16 and 14 inch, plus matching bracelet measuring 7 1/2 inch. Suitable for all occasions, our relatively priced and packaged in a presentation box, they make an attractive gift. Bracelets: 18 inch Box Chain £12.95, 16 inch Box Chain £11.95, 14 inch Box Chain £10.95. 20 inch Box Chain £14.95.

Please allow up to 14-21 days for delivery. The price includes V.A.T. and postage. Money is refundable on all goods on demand without question. Orders and enquiries should be sent to: Guardian Chains Offer, Bourne Road, Bury, Kent DA5 1BL. Tel. (0025) 53216 for enquiries.

Please send me 9ct Gold Chains I have indicated below.

18 inch Box Chains at £12.95 each

16 inch Box Chains at £11.95 each

20 inch Box Chains at £14.95 each

I enclose cheque/PO for £..... made payable to Guardian Box Chain offer, or debit my Access/Visa No.

Name Address Reg No 88456

WEEKEND FIXTURES IN DETAIL

MILK CUP

Semi-final, first leg

Ipswich v. Norwich

CANON LEAGUE

FIRST DIVISION

Aston v. Manchester Utd

Cardiff v. Chelsea (11.30 am)

Leicester v. Stoke City

Liverpool v. Luton

Newcastle v. Leeds

Nottingham Forest v. Southampton

QPR v. Sunderland

WBA v. Tottenham

West Ham v. Aston Villa

TOMORROW

Sheffield Wed v. Watford

SECOND DIVISION

Barnsley v. Oxford Utd

Cardiff v. Walsingham

Fulham v. Carlisle

Grimsby v. Notts County

Leeds v. Charlton

Manchester City v. Bristol

Middlesbrough v. Huddersfield

Preston v. Oldham

Sheffield Utd v. Barnsley

Sunderland v. Birmingham

TOMORROW

Crystal Palace v. Walsingham

SHROPSHIRE LEAGUE

Llangefyllen v. Llangefyllen

Llangefyllen v. Llangefyllen

THIRD DIVISION

Barnsley v. Reading

Bristol v. Bristol City

Bristol Rovers v. Plymouth

Bury v. Preston NE

Canterbury v. Weymouth

Gillingham v. York City

Lincoln v. Exeter

Millwall v. Grimsby City

Northampton v. Hull City

Walsall v. Oxford

Walsley v. Swansea, postponed.

TOMORROW

Barnsley v. Reading

Bristol v. Bristol City

Bristol Rovers v. Plymouth

FOURTH DIVISION

Aldershot v. Scunthorpe

Barnsley v. Scunthorpe

Barnsley v. Scunthorpe

Barnsley v. Scunthorpe

Barnsley v. Scunthorpe

Barnsley v. Scunthorpe

Barnsley v. Scunthorpe

Barnsley v. Scunthorpe

Barnsley v. Scunthorpe

Barnsley v. Scunthorpe

Barnsley v. Scunthorpe

Barnsley v. Scunthorpe

Barnsley v. Scunthorpe

Barnsley v. Scunthorpe

Barnsley v. Scunthorpe

SCOTTISH PREMIER DIVISION

Celtic v. Aberdeen

Dundee Utd v. Dundee

Dundee Utd v. Dundee

Dundee Utd v. Dundee

Dundee Utd v. Dundee

Dundee Utd v. Dundee

Dundee Utd v. Dundee

Dundee Utd v. Dundee

Dundee Utd v. Dundee

Dundee Utd v. Dundee

Dundee Utd v. Dundee

Dundee Utd v. Dundee

Dundee Utd v. Dundee

Dundee Utd v. Dundee

Dundee Utd v. Dundee

SCOTTISH FIRST DIVISION

Aberdeen v. Dundee

Dundee Utd v. Dundee

Dundee Utd v. Dundee

Dundee Utd v. Dundee

Dundee Utd v. Dundee

Dundee Utd v. Dundee

Dundee Utd v. Dundee

Dundee Utd v. Dundee

Dundee Utd v. Dundee

Dundee Utd v. Dundee

Dundee Utd v. Dundee

Dundee Utd v. Dundee

Dundee Utd v. Dundee

Dundee Utd v. Dundee

Dundee Utd v

DIARY

THE Department of Energy was yesterday presented with the first exciting results of its domestic energy efficiency scheme launched in October with 50 per cent DE funding and the enthusiastic backing of Mr Peter Walker.

The Heat (Home Energy Advice and Treatment) scheme was piloted in three towns — Leicester, Coventry, and Northampton. Leaflets were sent out giving advice on insulation and offering a £40 "energy audit" on their homes. The offer was followed up with a voucher system for work to be done.

After £50,000 worth of advertising and 110,000 leaflets, one person has so far taken up Heat's advice and put in insulation — £25 worth.

RED KEN will, he hopes, face his difficult selection meeting for the Brent East constituency tomorrow and refreshed. He plans to return from holiday in Cuba just before the meeting at the end of April. He further hopes to meet one or two "important people" while out there, though really it's just a holiday.

AREN'T you just glad you don't work for TV-am? I regard the problems of Mr Mike Hollingsworth, Director of Programmes there, who featured luridly last weekend in a News of the World story exposing his alleged close relationship with presenter Anne "Miss Ordinary" Diamond.

Before this, Mr H had had dust-up with the technicians' union, ACTT, after securing the scoop of paying for a "Globe" trip to Ethiopia. ACTT demanded special staffing levels ("Ethiopia a war zone") and so TV-am had to resort to a variety of ploys to get a meagre amount of footage back in return for Mr Goldor's expenses.

In the wake of the dust-up, Fleet Street newspapers started receiving anonymous letters alleging a relationship with Miss Ordinary and saying he'd been sacked. The subsequent visits from a number of newspapers coincided with a month's compassionate leave to look after his wife, who is getting over an operation. Both he and Miss Ordinary deny a relationship. ACTT denied seeking to the News of the World.

Wouldn't you rather — as Sir John, Junior might put it — be a pianist in a Lebanese brothel?

AS ALWAYS the long-suffering Poles have come up with a bitter joke to assuage their feelings. "According to emigre sources the latest are inevitably about the murder of Solidarity priest Father Jacek Polakowski. A priest is walking along the road when a police car stops and the cop says: 'Do you want a ride?' 'No thanks,' the priest answers, 'I can't swim.'"

MONEY still continues to flood in as a result of the second miners' families appeal advertised in both the Guardian and the Times — so much so that the organisers are planning to advertise again next week. The second appeal has so far raised a further £100,000 — £3,500 from Times readers and the rest from the Guardian. But Times readers needn't be downhearted: they more than made up for it with the volume of hate mail they also sent in.

CONGRATULATIONS to Arthur Scargill, voted "Most Wonderful Human Being" in an NME readers' poll this week. Alas, he also comes third in another category: "Creep of the Year."

AN OWN-GOAL by political activists at Queen's University, Belfast, this week in the run-up to their one-day strike against education cuts. The day before the strike they voted heavily — at a thirty-attended "students' union meeting" — to re-name the 700-seat McMillan Hall (the original proposal, Arthur Scargill Hall, was withdrawn). The next day, strike organisers were out using public address systems to advertise a short-notice strike rally in the Nelson Mandela Hall. Almost no-one turned up since almost no-one had heard of the place.

HMSO list of EEC publications: "198: The Miracle of the CAP. The miracle of the PAC."

DINERS CLUB has old mailing lists, very old, actually. A colleague has just received an invitation to join sent to an address which was 10 years old. But the company is at least engagingly frank about where it gets its lists from — a job lot (presumably cut-price) from Time Life.

Alan Rusbridger



Everyone queues for everything in Shanghai: in the holiday season you can wait ten hours for a hair-do

Private squalor and public lives

MICHAEL WEISSKOPF reports from Shanghai, powerhouse of China

IT IS 6.30 am, rush hour. A dozen people are knocked down, trampled and overtaken in the scramble for the Huangpu river ferry. Already dangerously overloaded, the craft crawls away from the dock, leaving hundreds of grumbling commuters with no choice but to get back in line. When they finally reach the other side, they wait again, this time for a bus. They huddle themselves into a standing-room-only crowd while the vehicle pulls away, the door slamming repeatedly on dangling arms and legs.

Another day has begun in the most crowded city in the world's most populated country.

This is Shanghai, muscular, proud Shanghai, which led the rest of Asia into the modern age of skyscrapers and electricity. Its population, long China's most talented and diverse, grew to 12 million last year, making it the world's second-largest metropolis after Mexico City.

But Shanghai's great human resource has become its curse. Too many people fight for too few goods in too little space, creating a nasty blend of pollution, poverty, overcrowding, shortages, and corruption.

Within the next decade, Shanghai is expected to swell to 13.5 million people, adding to an already bloated megacity where one of every eight inner city residents is homeless, where consumers queue for three days to buy a colour television, and where visitors in want of hotel rooms have to sleep in such odd places as barbers' chairs.

It was not always like this in Shanghai. When the Red Army marched in in May 1949, it acquired a major international port of six million people divided into pockets of great wealth and poverty. There was the Shanghai of Chinese capitalists and Western financiers, a place known for adventure, entrepreneurial flair, and civility. This was the "Paris of the East," Asia's most prosperous city, a world of stately mansions, grand boulevards, chic cafes run by White Russian émigrés, nightclubs with names like Casanova, dog races, and posh country clubs.

There was the Shanghai of the wretched — naked peasant children, diseased beggars and half-starving coolies who lived in shanties and scraped for a daily bowl of rice.

Shanghai was, above all, a city bristling with commercial energy, an entrepot of opportunity where perfumed prostitutes in Suzie Wong dresses jostled British bankers and the streets rang with a cacophony of singing peddlers, heaving rickshaw boys, drunken sailors, and clacking mah-jong tiles.

Thirty-five years and a doubling in population later, Shanghai's energy is drained by the daily struggle for breathing space, goods, and peace of mind. No-one starves, and no-one flourishes. But the "city of blazing lights," as it was once called, has dimmed into a monochrome battlefield where almost everyone fights for a basic level of subsistence. Apart from the incessant din of bicycle bells, the streets are mostly silent.

Shanghai, despite its burdens, is still a jewel to many outsiders. Chinese travel hundreds of miles for the smart shops on Nanking Road, or for a look at the old financial district along the Huangpu river, China's only real skyline.

But an insider's view of Shanghai, focused by official reports and interviews with residents and authorities, is of a city barely able to support its millions. The average Shanghai resident lives without toilet or bathing facilities in a room about the size of a double bed. He fights with three others for every available place on the bus. He enjoys a patch of green space the size of a standard newspaper, opened at the fold. He seeks with his wife in park bushes on summer nights for lack of privacy at home, bringing along his marriage licence to show inquiring police. He breathes air that is polluted 10 times worse than American standards allow, contributing to an incidence of lung cancer in males that is three times higher than in New York City.

He drinks water that is mainly chlorinated sewage and eats vegetables laced with industrial toxins, factors contributing to male stomach-cancer rates six times higher than in New York. He queues for nearly everything. There is one optician for every million people, one tailor for every 90,000 people, one home telephone for every 2,400 people, and one public toilet for every 60,000 people on a busy day in the commercial district.

Shanghai's afflictions can be blamed on bad planning and radical politics. City officials, for example, froze all housing construction from 1967 to 1972 during the Cultural Revolution. But one problem underlies and intensifies all the others: overpopulation.

Most of the damage was done in the 1950s as China stabilised from decades of civil war and foreign occupation. The new authorities battled against disease, drastically cutting death rates, and, in the flush of victory, Chairman Mao advocated big families in the belief that more people meant more productive labour. "Every stomach comes with two hands attached," he said.

Shanghai's population exploded in record growth rates, averaging 3.7 per cent annually, quadruple today's level. Between 1950 and 1958, the city grew almost by half, adding 2.4 million people. More than a million peasants flocked to Shanghai during the 1950s in search of work. Although Shanghai closed its borders to internal migration 25 years ago, and began cutting its growth rate earlier than the rest of China, the city is still paying for its runaway growth of the 1950s.

Shanghai is packed as tightly as a matchbox. Up to 425,000 people squeeze into a square mile of Shanghai's inner city. While total housing more than doubled since 1949, construction has hardly kept pace with population growth. In 35 years, living space per person increased only slightly to today's average cubbyhole of 2.4 yards by 2.4 yards, according to Sun Layun of Shanghai's housing management bureau.



The Huangpu river, source of the city's drinking water, is a vast open sewer. Picture by Richard and Sally Greenhill

Some residential quarters share space with polluting factories or stinking mountains of industrial waste piled four storeys high. Raw sewage leaks into the streets of Shanghai's older sections, overflowing septic tanks and pre-1949 sewer pipes that are grossly inadequate for the city's burgeoning domestic waste, now 8,000 tons per day. Most homes have little space for anything but beds, with three generations often sleeping in a single room.

What housing there is in Shanghai lacks the basic amenities taken for granted in other major cities of the world. Housewives walk a block or more to draw water from public standpipes, juggling heavy buckets, or balancing them on bamboo poles. They cook on primitive coal stoves in communal kitchens or outdoor corridors clouded in coal dust.

Most Shanghai bathes in little pans of heated water at home or go to crowded public bathhouses, where scores of people wade in large, collective tubs. Without home toilets, they use wooden chamber pots kept under beds.

There is no word for "privacy" in Chinese, and any Shanghai neighbourhood shows why. The housing crisis packs the community so tightly that people have difficulty separating their lives. It cuts through all levels of society, pitting neighbour against neighbour in quarrels over communal space, and forcing students into the street to do their homework under dim lights.

Queuing is part of life in Shanghai. Housewives go to state markets at 8 am, placing a basket in several queues to mark their place as they hop from vegetables to fruit, to cooking oil. A haircut at one of the city's better barbers can take 10 hours of waiting in the holiday season.

In this kingdom of scarcity, he who dispenses objects of value is king, and corruption is the norm. It is institutionalised in a government bureaucracy in which housing officials take bribes for apartments, officials demand favours for gas connections, and state factory bosses trade their best bicycles or televisions for something they want for themselves or their families. Some multi-storey apartment blocks have remained uncoupled for months because electricians refused to wire them until they were assured of China's central government believes the best way to eliminate the pressure is to eliminate shortages. To that end, it has increased the supply of consumer goods and services, built new housing opened more schools, and added mass transit facilities. But Peking believes a more lasting and efficient cure for shortages is to cut demand — a goal of population control.

Western economists believe Shanghai has a 10 per cent unemployment rate despite heroic government efforts to find work for 1.4 million new job-seekers since 1979. Finding jobs for 378,000 people a year has led, moreover, to tremendous feather-bedding and declining rates of productivity. Despite this labour surplus, 15 per cent of Shanghai's industrial capacity is idle because of power shortages, and new factories have to wait up to two years for electrical connections.

By the time that he had moved on to examine the relative genius of Neil Franklin and John Charles, a my attempts at lucidity were additionally hindered by a further disturbing revelation. It is difficult to explain to anyone who has not confronted him in the flesh how like Stanley Matthews looks. Whenever I see great national monuments for the first time I am always struck by the similarity to the pictures of them with which we were all brought up. As with the Eiffel Tower the Colosseum and the Parthenon, Sir Stanley looks disconcertingly like the image which has passed into folk lore. Seeing the reality is like watching a legend jump out of a picture frame. No wonder I was disabused.

At 70, Sir Stanley is quintessentially Matthews. It was as if 50 years of football were all compressed into his bold worsted suit. I knew that there were bandy legs behind the sharp trouser creases and the hair (though

now steel grey) was still swirled into the complicated sweeps which all come together at the back of a collar which was never disturbed by heading a football.

And the knobby working-class face has hardly changed. These days, footballers can be mistaken for quantity surveyors or up and coming dentists. In Stanley Matthews's heyday they looked like footballers. His distinctive features came to typify the whole race. Talking to him was like having a conversation with a whole epoch of social history.

My critics will argue that I am simply allergic to heroes, and that I break out into a metaphorical rash whenever I come into direct contact with one. But if I do suffer from that disease, I am infected by a narrowly defined virus. I have had relatively lucid conversations with Henry Kissinger on the subject of Mutual and Balanced Force Reductions. I moved my head at exactly the right

moment when the then Governor Ronald Reagan told me that most unemployment was voluntary. And there was a time when I talked quite frequently to Viscount Tonypantry who, as readers of his autobiography will recall, was once the most wonderful man in the world. It is sporting heroes who leave me gob-smacked.

Perhaps part of my emotions ceased to develop and grow at some time during my twelfth or thirteenth year, and in my mind I am still standing on tiptoe in the shade of Spion Kop watching Stanley Matthews dribble down the wing. Or I may have learnt to distinguish between real heroes and counterfeit copies. Whatever the explanation, retaining the old emotions allows me to enjoy the old pleasures. Say I'm weary, say I'm sad, say that Joe Ashton is columnist of the Year. But add that last Tuesday I met Stanley Matthews.

ENDPIECE

Roy Hattersley

LAST TUESDAY I shook him by the hand, the greatest outside right who ever played football. And, as is my habit when I am ushered

into the presence of a sporting hero, I made an absolute ass of myself. On the red shale Spion Kop where, 40 years ago, I used to stand to see Wednesday play, I would have been described as "gob-smacked." It is a condition induced by a fault in the cable which joins brain to tongue and usually brought on by awe. It does not render the victim speechless, but simply incapable of sensible speech. The disease is progressive. After the first fiasco the patient deteriorates. Every attempt to recover intensifies the attack.

My first symptom was confusion about the name. "It is I," said "a great privilege to meet you, Mr Matthews," forgetting the photographs taken outside Buckingham Palace of "football's first knight" wearing his top hat at a rakish angle and holding the insignia of his honour as proudly as he would have displayed a Cup winner's medal. But I could remember the photograph which used to be pinned to the youth club wall — Stoke

City stripes and baggy shorts, leaning at almost 45 degrees to body swerve around the fullback, eyes in mid-movement between the ball at his feet and the centre-forward waiting in the goalmouth.

And I called him Mr Matthews. But only during our first greeting. After that, I called him "Sir Stanley" obsessively. Each of my sentences began and ended with an acknowledgment of his accolade. His knighthood split my adjectives and separated my nouns. No drill sergeant ever peppered his conversation with so repetitious a single phrase. After 10 minutes of unremitting reference to his chivalrous state he urged me to abandon formality and call him "Stanley." Of course that did nothing to calm my nerves. I just took refuge in banal questions about the best full-back he ever played against and the place in which he keeps his famously belated Cup winner's medal. For the record, the answers were "Hughes

of Chelsea and Wales" and "don't know."

At this point in the conversation my state of mind was further disturbed by constant exposure to the great man's genuine humility. I once owned a book of Edwardian cricket portraits which captioned every sepia photograph with a one line assessment of the personality which it depicted. Under the likeness of the young Jack Hobbs it said "the modesty of true greatness." And as Sir Stanley told his self-deprecating stories, that seemed the only possible caption for his conversation. We were told about the day when he lost his boots and had to stuff cottonwool inside somebody else's size ten shoes. The long serving football manager whose only recorded instruction to his team had been to bath quickly after the match and catch the 5.10 train home, and the Italian rumour that during the Milan international of 1948 he had stopped in mid-dribble, put his foot on the ball and begun to comb his hair.

By the time that he had moved on to examine the relative genius of Neil Franklin and John Charles, a my attempts at lucidity were additionally hindered by a further disturbing revelation. It is difficult to explain to anyone who has not confronted him in the flesh how like Stanley Matthews looks. Whenever I see great national monuments for the first time I am always struck by the similarity to the pictures of them with which we were all brought up. As with the Eiffel Tower the Colosseum and the Parthenon, Sir Stanley looks disconcertingly like the image which has passed into folk lore. Seeing the reality is like watching a legend jump out of a picture frame. No wonder I was disabused.

At 70, Sir Stanley is quintessentially Matthews. It was as if 50 years of football were all compressed into his bold worsted suit. I knew that there were bandy legs behind the sharp trouser creases and the hair (though

now steel grey) was still swirled into the complicated sweeps which all come together at the back of a collar which was never disturbed by heading a football.

And the knobby working-class face has hardly changed. These days, footballers can be mistaken for quantity surveyors or up and coming dentists. In Stanley Matthews's heyday they looked like footballers. His distinctive features came to typify the whole race. Talking to him was like having a conversation with a whole epoch of social history.

My critics will argue that I am simply allergic to heroes, and that I break out into a metaphorical rash whenever I come into direct contact with one. But if I do suffer from that disease, I am infected by a narrowly defined virus. I have had relatively lucid conversations with Henry Kissinger on the subject of Mutual and Balanced Force Reductions. I moved my head at exactly the right

moment when the then Governor Ronald Reagan told me that most unemployment was voluntary. And there was a time when I talked quite frequently to Viscount Tonypantry who, as readers of his autobiography will recall, was once the most wonderful man in the world. It is sporting heroes who leave me gob-smacked.

Does breaking up the industry afford the best future for British shipbuilding?



SATURDAY NOTEBOOK

THE CURRENT year is designed to prove the most decisive in the history of Britain's oldest industries, shipbuilding, at least since the state corporation, British Shipbuilders, was created.

Not only will the future of the warship yards be determined, with the privatisation of the seven-strong complement of BS naval building companies, but the structure of the corporation's merchant shipbuilding activities will also assume a more positive shape.

Already this year, a num-

ber of events have materialised which offer some guidance to the prospects for the shipbuilding industry.

Last month, the direct intervention of the Defence Secretary, Mr Michael Heseltine, saved Birkenhead's Cammell Laird from closure but in the process jeopardised the survival chances of a mainstream warship yard, Vosper Thornycroft.

Competitiveness has been the central dogma steering Government policy over the UK's struggling shipbuilding yards, with both Treasury and Trade and Industry ministers, as well as the BS chairman, Mr Graham Day, insisting that orders whether domestic or export, will be won on pricing alone. This means not only competitive tendering, but improvements in productivity.

On the warship front, this practice has now largely been put into place with MoD contracts awarded to the yard able to offer the best price. One of the by-products of this has been that a number of major naval orders, for both repairs and for replacement vessels, have gone not to BS yards but to small private

yards, including former BS subsidiaries, amongst which the greatest beneficiary has been Tyne Shiprepair.

Yet Mr Heseltine's stance over Cammell Laird, welcome as it must be, suggests that the Government is not ready to be completely consistent in its adopted policy. The DTI, sponsoring ministry for shipbuilding, demanded, in vain, that the contract for the Type 23 frigate awarded to Cammell Laird should go to the cheapest bidder, and it seems certain that it could have been built for about £7 million less at Swan Hunter and probably at Vosper Thornycroft as well.

The Heseltine decision won Cabinet support over the DTI arguments not because of any special sympathy for the Defence Secretary's former role in campaigning for new investment in Merseyside, but because ministers in general felt that workers who had crossed picket lines should be rewarded.

The bulk of Cammell's workforce last year defied the strike action which brought the yard to a standstill for 14 weeks, and in the interim, agreed to new flexi-

ble working practices well in advance of those in operation at most other yards.

This was the real reason why the MoD order was gained and why other yards, which fulfilled the government's procurement criteria more exactly, lost out and could in the case of Vosper Thornycroft, now face closure in place of Cammell Laird.

One conclusion which could be drawn from the Cabinet attitude is that the government is prepared to pay a price for weakening union powers. Part of the price could be closures or redundancies elsewhere. After all, when the warship yards were being put on the market, a senior industry minister indicated his belief that there was a minimum of one warship yard too many.

Elsewhere, there are signs that pressure is mounting to break up union control over a single British shipbuilding industry. Recently, workers at the Austin and Pickersell merchant yard voted in defiance of the advice of the single body which negotiates on behalf of the industry, the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering

Unions, to accept new working practices and a virtual two year pay freeze in order to win a £28 million overseas contract.

Few would quarrel with the A & P workforce attitude for the threat of the yard's immediate closure was suspended over its head. But again, every indication appears to be that a central ingredient of government's drive toward competitiveness is that shipbuilding in the UK should consist of a handful of isolated yards, battling with each other for work, and with no common cause as a single unified industry.

The privatisation of the warship yards fits into this strategy. Instead of one warship building industry, there will be up to seven separate warship yards, in addition to the handful of small private yards which have already drifted into the private sector.

As it happens, the government may find itself facing a more concentrated industry than it had hoped. With the bidders list for the first of the plum yards, Yarrow, having already closed, the most prominent names which appear to be heading the roll

are two of the private sector's dominant companies, GEC and Trafalgar House.

Trafalgar has already moved into shipbuilding, buying Scott Lithgow from BS and the BGC oil rig yard from British Steel, both last year, while GEC is a leading defence equipment contractor, and its electronic systems will form a major component in many, if not all, new naval vessel orders.

Both could be among the leading contenders for the second level among the warship yards, the Vickers yard at Barrow-in-Furness, which will be the monopoly builder for the Trident nuclear submarine programme.

When the warship yards went up for auction, many government hopes were pinned to the possibility of management buy-outs at the yards, but the chances of this is fading. A management consortium bid for Yarrow failed to gain worker support and perished, and the same fate could lie in store for a similar consortium bid being created at Swan Hunter.

Indeed, so strongly did the Government favour management buy-outs that one idea which gathered support was

that compensation should be offered to shipbuilding workers, in exchange for the scrapping of the redundancy payments scheme in the form of free loans for shareholdings, in the company for which they work.

One of the potential dangers of allowing the more valuable and advanced of the warship yards to fall into the hands of powerful conglomerates is that the smaller yards, particularly those which achieve some sort of independent life, may find themselves gradually squeezed out of existence by the financial muscle of the large private sector groups.

One cannot question that the British shipbuilding industry had become grossly overmanned and uncompetitive in an era of substantial international overcapacity.

And there are encouraging signs that some elements of competitiveness are being regained. Last week, the Clydeside yard of Govan, possibly the yard with the most modern facilities and advanced working practices, won a £40 million order from shipping group, P & O, the

largest contract it had obtained since it built the QE2 over 15 years ago and the largest merchant order placed in the UK since the heavily subsidised replacement for the Atlantic Conveyor.

Simultaneously, one must applaud the efforts being made by the DTI in Brussels to allow it to increase its intervention support for shipbuilding orders, to give the BS merchant yards in the main a breathing space while facilities are improved.

But it is difficult to avoid some fears that privatisation and the erosion of union powers are the ideals which dominate government strategy, and that these, rather than the evolution of a genuinely competitive and successful UK shipbuilding industry, are the current priorities.

And it is just a little difficult not to believe that the UK's merchant yards, having been sufficiently trimmed down to turn them into sellable commodities, will not follow the warship yards into the private sector if the Conservatives remain in power.

David Simpson

Woolworth also exploring launch of a national plastic plan

M & S credit cards runaway success

By Margaret Pagano, City Correspondent

Marks and Spencer yesterday reported a runaway success in the first few days of launching its credit card scheme with over 40,000 applications formally received and over one million customers picking up application forms from its stores on the first day.

Woolworth also revealed yesterday that it is exploring the launch of a national credit card scheme.

Marks and Spencer, the giant retailer headed by Lord Rayner, looks set to beat the conservative target it set itself of some 250,000 firm applications in May. The total number of firm applications received by the new financial services division, St Michael, in Chester, is already in excess of the 31,000 cards issued during the eight month trial in Scotland.

The result augurs well for

the group's estimate that it should capture two to three million of its 14 million weekly customers within the next five years and add £1 billion to sales through credit purchases. This would make it the third largest credit card operator after Access and Visa.

Some four million leaflets will be made available over the next few weeks and the card, with a credit limit of £1,500 should be running by April.

Woolworth said it is talking to several banks about launching a nationwide chargecard throughout the chain's 850 stores. Woolworth's DIY chain, B & Q, already operates a chargecard through Lloyds Bank and the recently acquired Comet electrical chain runs a scheme with North British group.

The aim is to provide a card which can be used by customers throughout all its various

stores, including Woolco. Over 10 million customers shop every week in Woolworth.

Mr Nigel Whitacker, Woolworth director, said it had been looking at a credit card scheme for several months but as yet is only in preliminary talks with banks. At this stage Woolworth would not consider setting up and funding a separate financial services division, but would want a joint partner in the venture.

The scheme is likely to be limited to credit. It does not expect to want to expand into other financial services such as loans, personal, and insurance which M & S has indicated it wants to do.

Mr Paul Guy, who joined Woolworth from Comet to become finance director, was in charge of the scheme until his sudden departure two weeks ago. An announcement on the card is expected to be sometime off.



Lord Rayner — tops target

Esso falls into line on petrol price rise

By John Hooper, Energy Correspondent

Esso, which has built up a reputation as the odd-man-out in the petrol market, yesterday fell into line with the other leading companies and put up its price by 2.7p. From midnight last night, all but a handful of small independent chains were charging 104.6p for a gallon of four-star.

Esso's move came as a considerable relief to the other firms. Shell had started the ball rolling with a 2.7p increase on Tuesday. Texaco, Mobil and BP followed suit on Wednesday. But Esso did not move, causing speculation that

it might force its competitors into a humiliating climbdown.

This time, however, the price rise was clearly in the interests of the business as a whole. In the first place, it will take the edge off the losses that the industry has suffered because of the increased cost of gasoline. But more importantly perhaps it brings the price of four star sufficiently close to the psychologically important £2 mark for there to be a good chance that the Chancellor will have to take the blame for breaching the barrier when he increases the duty on Budget day.

Hopkinson warns on conflict of interest

By Margaret Pagano

One of the City's sharpest critics, Mr David Hopkinson, has once again stirred the fierce debate over potential conflicts of interest in the changing financial industry with a warning over the shifting power structure within the Square Mile.

Speaking at a Society of Investment Analysts dinner on Thursday, Mr Hopkinson picked out the certain decline in the power of the City Exchange over the last two years. "This has been brought about by its own inflexibility and greed by refusing consistently to trim the monopolist powers to charge excessive commissions and limit the spread of its membership."

In his leading role as guardian of the investing community, Mr Hopkinson, head of the giant M & G investment fund, added: "The two forces which amalgamate to achieve this decline were the new breed of unanswerable large institutional investors and the new breed also of large financial conglomerates, whether they call them banks or merchants, or international banks."

"We may also be seeing a decline in the power of the Bank of England as the Treasury and politicians batter away at its unwritten authority. It is worth stopping to consider how the new power centres may themselves be corrupted if they do not take

proper account of their general responsibilities towards the common wealth or the public interest."

"There is no doubt that the large institutional investors are being corrupted by worshiping at the altar of short-term performance and the greed that accompanies that false god."

On the subject of the new power centre—the new financial conglomerates—Mr Hopkinson warned that they would also be restricted or overcome if they did not seriously tackle conflicts of interest.

"The new government White Paper, with all its quagmires of quangoes and self-regulatory authorities, is only the preliminary skirmishing in a much larger battle that is to come, when one institution is lending, giving advice, underwriting, broking and managing funds."

"I cannot forecast what is going to happen in this country, but the White Paper is long on words and short on practicalities." Over the coming years there would be floods of tears, "I would keep the lifeboats handy."

His advice to institutional investors was that the wider picture of control had to be kept in view otherwise steps would be taken to control their power. "In the last resort everything comes back to personal integrity, which is up to individuals to impose on organisations."

BP to reorganise shipping operation

By John Hooper

British Petroleum yesterday announced a wide-ranging reorganisation of its shipping operations. In a statement, BP said that it had told its 1,900 seafaring staff to be prepared for a further shift in emphasis from the transportation of crude oil and refined products to the servicing of offshore rigs and platforms.

Within its crude and product carrying operations, there is to be an increase in the size of the medium tonnage fleet at the expense of smaller vessels.

The company is buying three medium-sized second-hand tankers, the first of which—the Libra—has already been purchased and renamed the BP Energy. A small tanker is to be sold immediately and it seems certain that more will be disposed of soon.

Until recently, BP Shipping was essentially a service division within the British Petroleum Group of companies. But last year it was given a quasi-independent status and told to make a profit, even if this meant providing services for other companies, forcing other parts of the BP group to

look elsewhere for their shipping needs.

Yesterday's announcement was the company's first big move since then. It underlined the fact that the management sees the best prospects as being in the area of offshore support. BP Shipping has four offshore vessels—the emergency support ship Iolair, the diving and supply vessel Sultair, and two safety and support ships operating in the far northern Magnus field, Seagair and Coltair.

The company also runs two North Sea vessels for third parties and will operate the innovative SWOPS (Single Well Oil Production System) ship which is to be used to get oil from the Cyrus field, 150 miles north-east of Aberdeen. The SWOPS vessel, ordered earlier this year, is being built at the Harland and Wolff yard in Belfast.

The spot price of Britain's North Sea oil, which earlier this week came within five cents of the official price, fell by 25 cents a barrel yesterday after sales by the Saudi trading company, Norbec, and reports that new supplies of Iranian crude will soon be available.

Citicorp snaps up discount house

By Peter Rodgers, City Editor

THE NYTS smallest discount house, Secombe Marshall and Campton is to be swallowed up for £7 million by Citicorp of New York and become part of the biggest bank in the world.

The deal dislodges Secombe from its position as broker to the Bank of England in the discount market, which it has held for 60 years.

The Bank said yesterday that from January next it will start doing its own bill broking operations from an internal dealing room. The reason is that as Secombe expands with Citicorp's backing there could be conflicts of interest with the role of the Bank's own broker. The Bank of England said there would be no other changes in its money market operations.

Until January Secombe will not be able to absorb any additional capital from Citicorp's London merchant banking subsidiary, CIBL, which is making the agreed bid. But eventually Secombe is expected to get an infusion of some £10 million, or so working capital which will nearly double its allowable holdings of bills to around £400 million.

The bid for Secombe is £440p cash which compares with last night's closing price of only 410p. There is an alternative of unsecured CIBL loan notes.

Mr John Rogers of CIBL said that the acquisition would be "filling out" his bank's operations in London. It intended to become a leading market maker in the major London financial markets, and the discount market — which acts as an interface between the Bank of England and the banking system — takes it to be a very short-term term end. The houses deal in bills up to a year's maturity.

There will have to be a strict separation from Citicorp's other activities, to avoid conflict of interest. Citicorp, which is based in London, deals extensively in the money markets. Secombe chairman Mr David Campton said that the offer valued the company at 25 per cent premium over assets. The firm employs only 25 people and can keep a maximum of £250 million on its books, whereas the larger discount houses are allowed to hold 10 times as much with only three times as many people.

Investors in Industry safeguard

By Peter Rodgers

The Bank of England is likely to insist that conditions are built into any deal to sell the Investors in Industry (Ii) group, to safeguard its special role in providing long-term finance for small and medium-sized companies.

The Governor of the Bank, Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton, made this clear last night at a dinner given by Ii in Birmingham. The industrial finance company is owned by the Bank of England and English and Scottish clearing banks, which

are considering plans to sell off, perhaps through a flotation on the stock market.

The management of Ii has been resisting the idea of a sale, which was first promoted by Midland Bank. It believes that could undermine its commitment to very long-term risks and rewards. Under an ordinary shareholding structure Ii might be forced to look for more immediate financial rewards from its investments in developing companies.

Mr Leigh-Pemberton said he

could not forecast the outcome of a review of the present shareholdings, now under way with the help of the merchant bankers, Morgan Grenfell. He added: "What I can say is that if there should be changes it would be right that Ii should maintain its successful role in the long-term finance of the unquoted enterprise sector."

Mr Leigh-Pemberton did not spell out how the special character of the Ii group would be preserved, although a golden share or some similar device might be possible.

Guide to beat computer fraud

By Peter Rodgers

The Bank of England has sent a detailed guide to computer security to 600 banks and licensed deposit takers, to encourage them to beef up their vigilance against fraud, accidents and mistakes which could cause financial chaos.

The three-part document, prepared by accountants Deloitte Haskins & Sells, includes a questionnaire designed to search out weaknesses in computer security management, for use by senior

management of British banks and financial institutions. They are expected to ask their technical experts to fill it in, and there is a plain man's guide for chief executives, to help them assess the answers. The Bank of England maintains that the new attack on fraud and other computer dangers is not a response to any significant banking problems in the UK but an attempt to keep a step ahead in the game as technology changes. However, the documents,

written for the bank by Mr Geoffrey Smart, of Deloitte's management consultancy, carry a warning that they should not be allowed to fall into unauthorised hands in case they help outsiders break computer security. They list a variety of ways that computer security can be cracked by fraudsters—though without any detail—including the use of special programs which only come into operation when they are triggered by a particular date or transaction.

Herman Smith to axe pressworks

By Maggie Brown

Herman Smith, the Dudley, West Midlands motor component and engineering group, closing its presswork subsidiary, with the loss of 110 jobs.

The group also asked for dealing in its shares to be suspended at 22p while the affairs of the various group's activities are reorganised.

Armstrong Engineering, a subsidiary of Armstrong Equipment, a competitor group has agreed to buy the majority of the plant, stock and business of the presswork operation for a minimum £350,000. The company says there is not enough business for the pressworking industry.

In the company's last financial year its presswork business lost £1.3 million out of total group losses of £1.95 million and has continued at a loss since then.

Investors in Industry holds a fifth of the company's shares, following a £1 million rights issue 14 months ago.

The City Business Machines Group claims it is creating 400 jobs in London and the South-east as part of a major expansion plan over the next 12 months. Of these, however, 240 will be for self-employed sales men and women, who have gone through a four-week training course run by the firm. The remainder will be service and administration jobs.

NEWS IN BRIEF

BOOKER McConnell, the food and supermarket group currently besieged by bids, has paid £6,700,000 for Fitch Lovell's cash and carry business. The deal gives Booker another 13 depots in the South West and Midlands that last year produced sales of more than £1 million and pre-tax profits of £752,000.

Booker already has a national cash and carry network of 102 depots though the takeover would allow for great efficiencies. The group, currently fighting a renewed £330 million takeover bid from the Dee Corporation, estimated that the newly-acquired cash and carry business would add more than £1 million a year to its own profits.

WEST GERMAN motor manufacturer, Daimler-Benz, revealed yesterday that it is to acquire the 80 per cent it does not already own in the military aircraft and tank engine-maker, MTU, for an undisclosed price from the struggling trucks group, MAN.

UNEMPLOYMENT in the European Community rose sharply last month to hit an all-time high of 13.6 million of 12 per cent, the EEC's Eurostat said yesterday.

OVER 50 million people used British Airports Authority facilities in 1984, making it only the second authority after the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey to have handled so much traffic in one year, with Heathrow leading the way with 29 million passengers and Gatwick experiencing a record 14 million passengers.

CHEVRON Corporation announced yesterday that it expected to conclude the sale of its Italian refining and marketing operations to the First Arabian, a Luxembourg-based banking and investment concern, acquired Amoco's Italian refining and marketing assets in 1983.

M&G OFFERS

Please tick the appropriate box for information.

Unit Trusts offer managed investment in British and overseas stock markets for £1,000 or more. ☐

Planned Income Portfolio Provides twelve income payments spread through the year from an investment of £2,500 or more. ☐

13.25%—14.1% APR+Cheque Book High Interest Cheque Account with Kleinwort Benson Limited and administered by M&G, with a minimum initial deposit of £2,500. ☐

PERSONAL ☐ COMPANY ☐ PARTNERSHIP ☐
CHARITY ☐ TRUSTEE ☐ CLUB OR SOCIETY ☐

Savings Plan enables you to invest in unit trusts from £20 a month with no extra charges. ☐

Life Cover Plan offers you high levels of life cover protection at low cost. ☐

Guaranteed Bonus Bonds provide a high, fixed return paid net of basic-rate tax each year for five years. ☐

Flexible Pension Plan for anyone who is self-employed or not a member of an employer's pension scheme; you get complete tax relief on contributions. ☐

Share Exchange Scheme is an inexpensive way for you to exchange shares worth £1,000 or more for any M&G Unit Trust. ☐

To: The M&G Group, Three Quays, Tower Hill, London EC3R 6BQ. Tel: 01-626 4583.

Mr/Ms/Miss INITIALS
SURNAME
ADDRESS
POST CODE

MA 360815 Member of the Unit Trust Association of the United Kingdom

THE M&G GROUP

Dollar fright for shares

of between \$30 million and \$35 million, well above last year's figure of \$19.5 million. Electricals took another turn for the worse after Thursday's recovery. Adverse comment on Plessey's third-quarter figures knocked 8p from the shares at 240p. Insurance had another day of gains, nervousness in front of next month's figures.

£295,000 at the half-year stage against £200,000 at the first time, came back 8p to 45p.

Main changes: Seacombe Marshall 420p up 30p; Vickers 240p down 8p; ICI 884p up 24p; Habitat 314p down 23p; Granada 288p down 13p; BP 560p down 8p; Plessey 184p down 8p; Jaguar 325p down 5p.

Shareholder's

Banks also lost ground, but discount houses received a flip from the agreed \$40p cash bid for Seccombe Marshall. (up 30p to 420p) from Citicorp. Properties and buildings reflected concern over the prospect of a long period of

February 21: Number of bargains 13,122; value \$39.24 million.

• Frankfurt: The soaring US currency proved a mixed blessing as export-orientated shares closed higher, but import-related issues lost ground. The

Recent speculative favourites in the engineering sector relinquished some of their gains. Otis slipped several pence, but the explorers attracted fresh demand after Thursday's good profits from Saxon and Invent Energy. Golds gave up another

Recal came back 8p to 198p in sympathy with yesterday's poor figures from Plessey, 2p to 198p. The Henderson Group, to 283p. Heywood Williams, with figures due soon, gained 2p to 136p. Williams Holdings' shares up 58 to be closed.

- Tokyo: Prices closed mixed but moderate but rather indecisive trading. Nikkei Do Jones index: 12,147.06 (12,128.46)
- Hong Kong: Market closed for Chinese lunar year holiday.

recent acquisition led to a 1p rise to 200p. Munkhead lost another 16p to 168p after results yesterday.

Profit-taking took Brammer back 10p to \$15p. BTR, which extended the offer for Dunlop holdings until March 7, lost 7p to 634p. R.M. Douglas (Holdings), reporting losses of

FT Ordinary Share Index down 9.7 at 9752. FT-SE 100 Index down 10.2 at 1268.9. Pounds: \$1.0765; DM 3.64. Fri11.13. Gold: \$399. Accounts Feb 11 to 22. FT All Share Index down 3.79 to 6111.1. Sterling Index 71.5 (1975=100). RPI 359.8 (January) up 5.6 per cent on year.

COMMODITIES

[illegible]

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

[illegible]

Getting up to artful dodges

Lindsay Cook on how to do yourself and the nation a good turn

YOU don't have to own a unique collection of Chippendale or the treasures of Chatsworth to be able to benefit from the tax concessions available to the owners of works of art.

Anyone who inherits a work of art — a painting, manuscript, furniture, china or glassware — which may be of national, artistic or scientific interest may be able to do a deal with the tax man.

And while the items should be pre-eminence in their field, they don't have to be worth a fortune. Museums, art galleries, and libraries up and down the country acquire exhibits through a system which gives them a cheaper price than the open market, and also gives a tax advantage to the person making the sale.

To make such an arrangement, the first step is to approach a public collection and propose a figure for the market value of the work of art. In practice, people wishing to make a private treaty sale approach a dealer or an auction house, who make a valuation and contact one or more museums or galleries.

Museums are still governed by old-fashioned ethics and their staff do not like to haggle over prices, so they would never initiate proceedings by making an offer to someone wanting to sell an item. They may balk at the price proposed by the dealer and then it might be reduced, but as long as the right price can be struck, this dealing at arm's length can be very advantageous to the seller because auctioneers do not usually charge their full commission rate of about 10 per cent plus VAT but often take just two and a half per cent for making the introduction between the two parties.

Private treaty sales are tax-free and the price given to the owner is based on the agreed valuation of the picture or object in the open market or at auction — although without going to the salerooms a seller can never be sure how favourable the valuation is.

The price the owner receives takes into account the tax exemption and divides this benefit between the museum or gallery and the owner, giving the seller an amount equal to 25 per cent of the tax due on the item. In this way someone selling an item worth £100,000, with a £20,000 capital transfer tax bill due on it, would receive £40,000 plus 25 per cent of the tax — £5,000 instead of the

£40,000 they would be left with if they sold the item through the salerooms and paid the full tax on it.

The director of one museum stressed how important it was that they should be able to take advantage of these special deals. English furniture prices have doubled in the last year, because of the fall in the value of the pound, and are almost out of reach at the market price.

For an item to be sold by private treaty sale it is not only necessary for the museum or gallery to be willing to pay the price suggested by the dealer, but the deal must be approved by the Commission on Museums and Galleries and the Capital Taxes Office.

Owners of more spectacular specimens may be able to persuade the Office of Arts and Libraries, and the Department of the Environment to accept them in lieu of tax, but the funds for the 1984-85 are now almost committed.

To have an item accepted in lieu of tax it must satisfy a test of "pre-eminence" either in the context of a national, local authority, or university collection, or through association with a particular building.

Offers are made to the Capital Taxes Office, but owners still have the option to negotiate a private treaty sale if the Government declines to take a work of art.

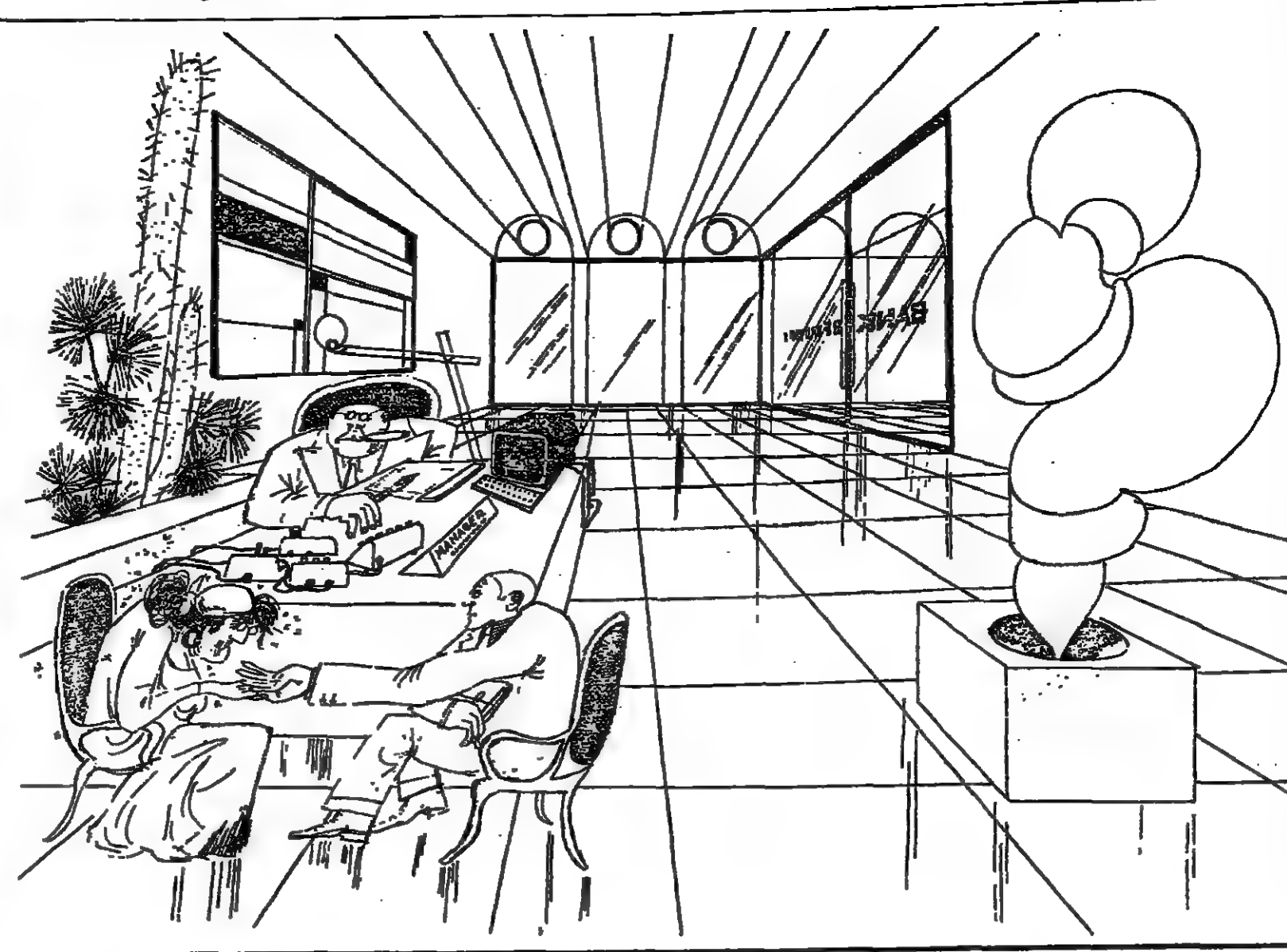
A conditional exemption from capital transfer tax can also be granted for "any pictures, prints, books, manuscripts, works of art, scientific collections or other things not yielding income which appear to the treasury to be of national, scientific or artistic interest."

To qualify, the item must be of sufficient quality to be displayed in a public collection, either national or local. The owner has to undertake to keep the object permanently in the United Kingdom — except possibly for a temporary exhibition abroad — and must take reasonable steps to preserve the object and to secure public access to it.

The item stays in the family, even if it is on long-term exhibition or on display to the public on open days, and the conditional exemption from capital transfer tax continues as long as the undertakings are fulfilled. The exemption can also be passed to heirs, and the tax bill can be deferred indefinitely.

The system is undoubtedly complicated and a basic guide to Capital Taxation and the National Heritage is available from the Office of Arts and Libraries, Department of Education and Science, Elizabeth House, York Road, London SE1 7FL.

OVERDRAWN BY APICELLA



Not everyone who gets into debt is villainous, feckless, or downright irresponsible. In the light of this week's figures from the Building Societies Association, Margaret Dibben quotes a case in point, while Peter Rodgers finds room for discretion in the banks' handling of personal loan defaulters

A debt trap for the unwary

THE number of people who are behind with their mortgage payments has tripled since 1979. Figures put out by the Building Societies Association this week show that in the year to June 1984, no less than 33,000 building society borrowers are more than six months in arrears.

Falling into debt often catches people unawares and the underlying causes of the increase in multiple debt show no signs of fading: recession, unemployment, low income, a sudden drop in income and the easy availability of credit.

This is how one family —

we will call them the Daltons — were caught out.

Mr Ted Dalton went into partnership with his brother in two and a half years ago. They bought a Wimpey fast food franchise and, through hard work, made a modest success of the business.

But then, just as business was picking up, the brothers suffered a devastating blow. Macdonalds opened a rival hamburger outlet just round the corner. The brothers could not compete with the brand name competition and pulled out.

They sold the business for £20,000 and Mr Ted Dalton committed himself, without

his brother, to buying a fish and chip business. He expected £30,000 as his share of the Wimpey business and, on the strength of it, borrowed £20,000 from a finance company to tide him over until the money came through.

At this stage, Mr Dalton displayed his naivety in business matters, and was misled into believing that the fish and chip shop was in better financial shape than it really was. He saw accounts of the shop but did not show them to an accountant before committing himself. He did have a solicitor, but was very conscious of the cost every time he made contact, so did not involve the solicitor either.

The business was never as profitable as the books had led Mr Dalton to believe, but he ran it with the help of his wife hoping that, given time, they would be able to build up a reputation and do better. Before that could happen,

however, Mr Dalton fell ill, and became unable to work. His wife could not manage the shop on her own and their three children were still at school and could not help out. So they brought in a manager to run the shop for them but, after a year they were still not making enough money and they had to close the shop down.

By now Mr Dalton was in hospital and the family had no money coming in. The manager had gone, leaving yet more unpaid bills and more debts. And Mr Dalton discovered that the manager of his contract with the landlord by closing the shop.

At this point Mr Dalton had to borrow more money from the finance company, who took a second mortgage on his house. A court order was served because he could not pay the landlord.

Last November, a bailiff came round and took possession of the shop. Mr Dalton, still in hospital, was told that if he did not pay £1,500 in rent arrears by December 6 he would lose the shop. The bailiff would take possession of the lease so he would not be able to sell the shop lease and clear his debts.

He found a buyer but, because the contact had been made privately rather than through the shop's agent, the agent blocked the sale. The shop was worth £20,000; Mr Dalton was offered £17,500.

By this time there was no money left in their bank account and the family were desperate. At this stage, fortunately they went to a money advice centre. Now, four months later, they have got rid of the shop for £17,000, but they have to sell the house they live in to pay off the finance company which is still adding interest charges at the rate of £400 a month. The Daltons have become one more statistic in the repossession tables.

Softly, softly

ONE area where debtors who get into trouble meet widely varying treatment is in personal loans. Last week Yorkshire Bank highlighted the problem of what happens when a personal borrower gets into financial difficulty when it said that up to 11,000 striking miners had been let off payments since last February, with no penalties whatsoever.

On the face of it, this is excellent news for borrowers. Why should they not all get the same treatment? They could ring up the bank and tell the manager there is no money in the kitty, so he will not get paid for a few months, so there. There is no security on a personal loan that a bank can call in, as it can with a mortgage and often with an overdraft.

In fact, Yorkshire Bank, whose practice is similar to other banks, would normally go to court against a personal loan customer who ceases payment. General manager Mr Graham Sunderland emphasised that this is the routine sanction. There is no provision in a personal loan contract for penalty interest payments if instalments are delayed. Repayments are calculated in the first place by adding the total interest due over the period of the loan to the capital sum borrowed, and dividing the fixed sum by the number of months over which it is payable.

The drawback is that if a borrower does get into trouble, there is no half way measure between taking court action and doing nothing until the customer can eventually repay.

So clearly, there is plenty of room for discretion at the bank in what are called "indulgence cases," where the customer would clearly like to repay but cannot, the practice seems to be to let the customer off. Mr Sunderland said there was no point in pursuing a debtor in default who could not pay because he had broken his leg.

The same logic applies to the miners. Court actions would be pointless because they have no income with which to pay. Yorkshire Bank's commercial judgment is that the miners will start repaying when they are back at work, a faith which has been borne out by the payments coming in from 1,000 or so miners who are now earning again. Mr Sunderland says the exact same practice was followed during the steel strike.

There could be a temptation for the banks to revise personal loan contracts to allow for penalties on late payment in hardship cases such as strikes, and no doubt the Prime Minister would approve of that. On the other hand there is already a very high interest rate premium on unsecured personal loans which is there in the first place to pay for the extra risks the banks are carrying.

Peter Rodgers

All over the world emerging companies are showing exciting growth potential.

The new generation Fund, investing in smaller companies and young industries.

All over the world exciting investment opportunities are being created by new industries, small companies that have recently been publicly floated, and organisations undergoing dramatic change.

Among industries like telecommunications, computer technology, and electronics, new growth areas are achieving profit growth beyond the reach of many older, dominant industries.

Smaller companies, or those recently floated or subject to takeover or merger, can enable new managements — often highly motivated by personal stock holdings — to achieve spectacular results.

The Perpetual International Emerging Companies Fund concentrates particularly on these investment areas all over the world, which the Managers believe offer outstanding opportunity.

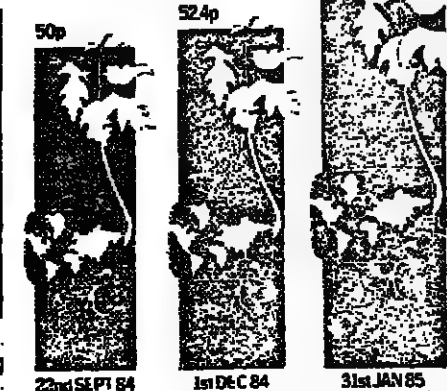
The research and analysis required is at a level that the individual investor would be hard pressed to achieve alone. Over the last ten years, Perpetual has developed a worldwide network of independent financial advisers — an ideal platform from which to identify successful emerging companies.

An exciting start

The International Emerging Companies Fund was launched on the 22nd September 1984 and in the four months since, the offer price of units had, as at the 31st January 1985, already increased by 22.6%.

Clearly this is only short term performance but it represents a healthy start to what we believe is an exciting investment opportunity. However, you should accept that unit values can go down as well as up.

UP 22.6% in 4 months



Successful international record

Over the last decade our two established international Funds have already proved to be excellent investment choices. The International Growth Fund, since its launch on the 11th September 1974, has increased an original investment of £10,000 to a current worth of £185,500, and is Britain's top authorised unit trust for capital growth over the period since launch to 31st January 1985. The Worldwide Recovery Fund, since its launch on the 23rd January 1982, has increased an original investment of £10,000 to a current worth of £22,220 as at the 31st January 1985.

N.B. Figures are on an on-cost basis and include net income reinvested. Past performance is intended as a guide only and should not be construed as a guarantee of future success.

Special offer — act now!

Full details of this new Fund are set out in the Prospectus which can be obtained by posting the coupon below to the Managers. By investing during March you could benefit from an advantageous special offer — we will provide full details with the Prospectus.

Perpetual has currently in excess of £150m under management.

Perpetual Group

International Emerging Companies Fund

Please send me a copy of the Perpetual International Emerging Companies Fund Prospectus.
Not applicable to residents in Eire.
To: Perpetual Group, 48 Hart Street, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon RG9 2AZ.
Tel: Henley-on-Thames (0491) 576858

SURNAME _____
ADDRESS _____
POSTCODE _____

Perpetual
Britain's Fast Growing Unit Trust Managers

Instant access No penalties with Gateway Gold Star

Invest £5,000 and above in a Gateway Gold Star Account with Monthly Interest and earn 9.38% net when full monthly interest is added to the account.

Applied Rate	Effective Annual Rate	Gross Equivalent Annual Rate
9.00%* NET	9.38%* NET	13.40% GROSS

Invest from £1,000 and more in a Gateway Gold Star Account and earn an attractive rate of 9.00% net with interest paid annually.

Applied Rate	Effective Annual Rate	Gross Equivalent Annual Rate
9.00%* NET	9.00%* NET	12.86% GROSS

Current rates and terms may vary.
7.50% net/10.77% gross* paid on balances below £1,000.
*Basic rate income tax paid.
†Gross equivalent for basic rate tax payers.



GATEWAY BUILDING SOCIETY

Gateway Building Society, Administrative Centre, Gateway House, Durrington Lane, Worthing, West Sussex BN13 2QH

Established 1854. Assets over £1,350 million. Reserves over £90 million. Trustee Status. Member of the Building Societies Association & Investors' Protection Scheme.

To: Gateway Building Society, FREEPOST, Worthing, West Sussex BN13 2ZR

I wish to open a Gateway Gold Star Account (minimum investment £1,000)/ Gold Star Monthly Interest Account (minimum investment £5,000). I understand interest will be added to my account monthly or paid direct to my bank account.

I enclose a cheque for £_____ (Maximum £30,000 joint account £60,000)

Please send me more information ☐

Name (Mr/Ms/Ms) _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Another face in the cupboard

Spurred on by the success of the Insurance Ombudsman, the banks are planning to create a new post of their own. Margaret Pagano reports

NEXT month the Insurance Ombudsman, Mr James Haswell, will reveal in the 1984 annual report that the number of complaints and inquiries brought by consumers has, as expected, again steadily increased.

What is more surprising is that he has never yet had to exercise his binding powers of ordering an insurance company to pay out any amount up to £100,000 to an aggrieved customer. So far, since the ombudsman's bureau was set up in 1981, all his rulings on individual cases have been accepted by either the customer or the insurance company in question.

This smooth precedent will be music to the ears of the banking community which has just embarked on plans to create a new banking ombudsman post with powers to make awards up to £50,000.

The banks have closely modelled the office of ombudsman on the insurance industry's experience and are equally determined that the office will be genuinely independent with strong "teeth".

which will work for the good of customers and so, for the banks.

The new banking ombudsman, who should be operating by the beginning of next year, will handle inquiries from all personal customers as defined under the Consumer Credit Act. This will include all partnerships, clubs, trade unions and charities and will be open to people using a banking service but not necessarily holding a bank account.

The banking ombudsman, like the insurance, will "conciliate, counsel or arbitrate" in cases where all normal grievance procedures have been exhausted at branch, regional and head office level. In fact, one of the sharpest observations from Mr Haswell's experience, which the banks may heed, is his advice to insurance companies that they should always send the most senior official it can spare if difficulty with a customer is expected. "When done early enough this can save time, money and wasted effort," he said in last year's annual report.

While the banks loosely estimate that about 4 to 5 per cent of the 55 million clearing bank customers are unhappy enough to write to head office to complain, they are unable to judge just how many complaints go unresolved. If Mr Haswell's experience can be a guide the 108 received in 1983 from 1,842 inquiries in 1983 about its member companies out of an estimated 3.8 million personal insurance claims. This was an increase of about a third on 1982 and a similar steady increase will be shown

when the 108 reports on 1984 in March.

This increase is only to be expected due to greater consumer awareness of the IOB and the rise in the number of insurance companies which are included in the scheme. Since the original three insurance companies when the ombudsman was launched in 1981 the latest tally is 163 members — a rise of 12 companies over the last year.



"My diagnosis, Mr. Preadegast, is excessive withdrawal symptoms"

The most common types of cases which the IOB handles are non-disclosures on insurance policies, particularly on house contents, no claims discounts on all policies, and inquiries on the surrender and values of life insurance. These are all growing areas for complaint which the IOB

believes may be related to the tougher economic climate that makes the public much sharper on what it can claim and more aware about its rights in seeing disputes through to the bitter end.

The effectiveness of the ombudsman is perhaps illustrated by the figures for 1983, when 527 policyholders had the original company decision revised — either by the chief executive of the company or by the ombudsman himself. Although the customer has the right to resort to the courts if they reject his verdict so far all the cases have been resolved.

When the National Consumer Council, through its working party in 1983, first recommended that the banks set up an ombudsman it suggested that his work should include building society customers. But both the banks and the building societies soon decided that their services and products differed so much that they would not happily fit together under one roof.

Mr Mark Boleat, deputy secretary-general of the Building Societies Association, said that the BSA had been operating its own informal complaints procedure for several years and did not believe there was any demand or pressure for an ombudsman role. The BSA receives about 100 complaints a year which, he said, are normally resolved by the society in question. The most popular complaints are about house insurance and the insistence by many societies that customers take insurance with certain companies. "If we believed there was any real need or pressure for an ombudsman then we would

certainly look at it again," said Mr Boleat.

It is perhaps telling that the banks have gone further than the NCC's original advice by taking a leaf out of the insurance book and giving the ombudsman the powers to make the financial award of £50,000. The £100,000 limit for the IOB is higher to cover life insurance policies. While they believe it is right that he should have this power over a company they also stress — as does the NCC — that this should not in any way reduce the right of recourse to the courts.

So the banks have, very rightly, specified that if a member bank believes a matter of principle is at stake it can take the case to court, but it should, in such a case, pay the complainant's costs.

Although the NCC generally believed that banking services are in the main satisfactory it recognises that most customers are too daunted to take banks to court and the ombudsman was seen as the best compromise.

As the banks have already pointed out the public's most common complaints against them are the mistakes made by cash machines. With the advances in technology in home banking and the coming of the electronic transfer of funds and electronic point of sale the scope for technological mistakes will be even greater so the timing of the ombudsman appointment is fitting.

Now all the banks have to do is find the top quality lawyer at the right price from the Temple to do the job — the thinking person's Esther Rantzen for the banking community.

THIS YEAR OVER 250,000 PEOPLE WILL ENJOY A MONTHLY INCOME FROM NATIONAL SAVINGS. HAPPILY, SO CAN YOU.

New higher interest rate — what 12.75% p.a. will pay you monthly

Investment	Average monthly income	Investment	Average monthly income
£ 2,000	£ 21.25	£12,000	£127.50
£ 4,000	£ 42.50	£15,000	£159.38
£ 5,000	£ 53.13	£18,000	£191.25
£ 6,000	£ 63.75	£20,000	£212.50
£ 8,000	£ 85.00		
£10,000	£106.25		

You can hold any amount from £2,000 up to £50,000 in multiples of £1,000. Each £1,000 of Income Bonds produces an average of £10.63 a month — £127.50 a year.

Over a quarter of a million people are now enjoying a regular monthly income from their investment in National Savings Income Bonds. You too could have something extra coming in every month.

New higher interest rate. From 13 March you'll get an increased rate of 12.75% p.a. interest on your Income Bonds. (Rate until then 12% p.a.)

The interest is sent on the 5th of each month direct to your home or your bank.

What to do. Complete the coupon for further details and send it to: NSIB, Bonds and Stock Office, Blackpool, FY3 9YF. Full details are also available at post offices, or your enquiries can be answered if you ring 0272 290871 (anytime).

NATIONAL SAVINGS INCOME BONDS

To: NSIB, Bonds and Stock Office, Blackpool, Lancs, FY3 9YF. Please send an application form, prospectus and pre-paid envelope for National Savings Income Bonds.

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
POSTCODE _____

£10,000 WORTH £16,316 IN TWO YEARS
WITH INCREASING INCOME FACILITY

* 22.7% p.a. equivalent growth in last two years although past performance is not necessarily a guide to the future. £10,000 invested two years ago now worth £16,316.
* Tax-free income available. Minimum investment only £1,000 or £250 monthly.
* Easy access to your money.

HAMMOND HOUSE INVESTMENTS LTD, FREEPOST
Poynton, Stockport SK22 7TD or Telephone 0625 871490

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
TEL NO. _____

FRAMLINGTON

For those who seek top investment performance, the FRAMLINGTON UNIT TRUST GUIDE is essential reading. It describes our ten funds and gives details of all our services, including our MONTHLY SAVINGS PLAN.

If you are self-employed or with a non-pensionable job, you should invest through FRAMLINGTON PERSONAL PENSIONS. This is the plan which offers "high returns and low charges" (Financial Times), is "about as straightforward a pension arrangement as one could imagine" (Observer), and which "looks set to knock spots off the opposition" (The Times). There is a discount until April 5.

For either or both of these booklets, send us the coupon; or use the Teledata 24 hour service on 01-200 0200 at any time.

To: Framlington, Freepost, London EC2B 2DL (No stamp required)

Please send: FRAMLINGTON UNIT TRUST GUIDE
PERSONAL PENSIONS PROSPECTUS

Name _____
Address _____

Even if you're not earning £100,000 a year, for £1,000 a year you could retire on it.

Whether you're interested in a top-up plan to supplement your company pension, or arranging a private pension, for a relatively small outlay the returns on an Equitable plan can be quite staggering.

We offer plans for two categories of people.

One for those in a company pension scheme, and one for those who aren't.

Let's arrange your own pension? If you're a partner, self-employed, or not in a company scheme, these examples of the kind of return you could expect should prove interesting.

Man aged	Tax bracket	Annual net outlay	Gross pension from 65*
30	30%	£1,000	£145,863
30	40%	£1,000	£170,173

In your company's pension scheme? If your company pension will be less than two-thirds of your final salary, and if your contributions are less than 15% of your current salary you should be entitled, by the Inland Revenue, to a top-up pension. Bear in mind that these examples are in addition to your company pension.

Man aged	Tax bracket	Annual net outlay	Gross pension from 65*
32	30%	£1,000	£110,728
32	40%	£1,000	£129,182

If you'd like to retire on the kind of pension you're only dreaming about earning out, the coupon or speak to us directly on 01-606 6611.

* Figures suppose that current immediate annuity rates apply at the time, and that current house prices, including terminal bonus, are maintained throughout. Future bonuses depend on future profits and cannot be guaranteed.

To: The Equitable Life, FREEPOST, 4 Coleman Street, London EC2B 2JT. I would welcome further details of The Equitable's retirement plans. ☐ I am an employee not in a company pension scheme. ☐ I want to top-up benefits from my company's pension scheme. ☐ I would also welcome details on retirement plans linked to up to ten investment funds. (UK residents only)

Name Mr/Ms/Ms _____
Address _____
Postcode _____
Date of Birth _____
Tel (Office) _____
Tel (Home) _____

The Equitable Life

The oldest mutual life office in the world.

Cheque the advantages Cheque-Save gives you.

CHEQUE YOUR BILLS

Pay for all your big bills by Abbey National Cheque-Save cheque. Enjoy very nice interest on your money until the cheque is cashed. (Bet you didn't know you could make money on your bills?)

CHEQUE YOUR HOLIDAY

Save for your holiday with your Cheque-Save account. Get interest every step of the way. Then pay the bill the Cheque-Save way.

CHEQUE THE CHARGES

There aren't any, unless your balance goes below £100. Then it's £1 a cheque. (But only for that cheque: not for every transaction in the last three months, like some High Street institutions we could mention.)

CHEQUE THE ACCESS

Now your money really is handy. Use Cheque-Save cheques for bills (with no limit on the amount — or the number you use), your Cheque-Save passbook for cash drawings — up to £250 a day at any Abbey National branch; and a VISA card is available for day to day purchases. Suddenly your money's all under control, handy — and doing nicely.

CHEQUE THE RATE

You'll earn a very nice 6.25% net of basic rate tax. (So if you're a taxpayer, that's worth 8.93% gross.)

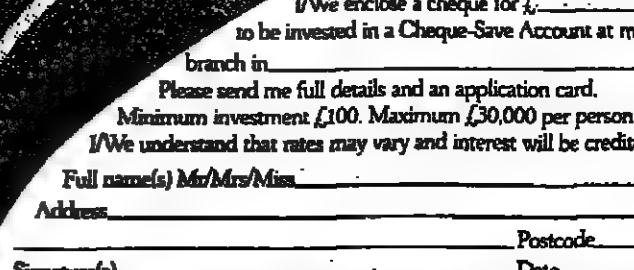
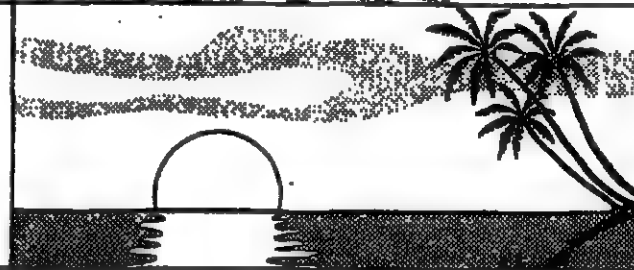
But if you can keep £2,500 and more in Cheque-Save, you'll enjoy millionaire treatment. 8.75% net, the equivalent of 12.50% gross on all your balance. It means your savings and your payments can all be in one handy account.

CHEQUE THE LEVEL

Just £100 gets you in. Which means that most people can readily enjoy all the benefits of a Cheque-Save account.

CHEQUE IN HERE!

It's easy to get what Cheque-Save can give you. Just fill in the coupon and post it with your first deposit. Or pop into your local branch. Cheque In Soon!



To: Dept. C.S. 81, Abbey National Building Society, FREEPOST, United Kingdom House, 180 Oxford Street, London W1E 3YZ.

I/We enclose a cheque for £_____ to be invested in a Cheque-Save Account at my/our local branch in _____

Please send me full details and an application card. Minimum investment £100. Maximum £30,000 per person, £60,000 joint account.

I/We understand that rates may vary and interest will be credited to the account half yearly.

Full name(s) Mr/Ms/Ms _____
Address _____
Postcode _____
Telephone _____

Signature(s) _____
Date _____

ABBEY NATIONAL CHEQUE-SAVE

G 30

Get the Abbey Habit

IT'S YOUR LIFE

NEW

What's happening to your pension contributions?

In case you're labouring under the misapprehension that all personal pension plans are pretty much the same, here are a couple of startling facts:

- Because we don't pay commission, London Life takes up to 90% less than a typical life office as management charges from your first year's premiums.
- London Life could also produce at least 200% more cash from your first year's contributions to purchase your retirement benefits.

The tables below give the details:

Expenses deducted from first year's premiums				Benefits from first year's contributions			
Regular premium per month	London Life	Typical Life office	In the first year, with London Life you save	Retirement at the end of year	Cash Fund to purchase retirement benefits	Extra return from London Life	
					London Life	Typical Life office	
£50	£30	£421	£391	10	£3,398	£2,104	£1,294
£100	£48	£831	£783	15	£5,989	£2,979	£3,010
£250	£90	£2,067	£1,977	20	£10,555	£4,215	£6,340
				25	£18,602	£5,959	£12,643

As it is the early contributions to any plan that produce the largest part of the retirement fund, London Life's low charges could make quite a difference to your pension. So why use your hard won pension contributions to subsidise the



inefficiencies of others when London Life's new Retirement Prosperity Plan can earn you so much more? To find out how it works, fill in and return the coupon below.

*Based on a 25 year unit-linked personal pension plan. **Based on an investor paying £100 per month into a unit-linked personal pension plan and assuming growth of 12% p.a. after deduction of the initial charges.

To: New Business Department, The London Life Association Limited, Freepost, 100 Temple Street, Bristol BS1 6YJ (no stamp required). I am not a member of a company pension scheme, and would like to know more about London Life's new Retirement Prosperity Plan.

Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Address _____

Postcode _____ Preferred Retirement Age _____

Amount of Monthly Savings _____ Tax Rate _____ %

Tel Nos: Business _____ Home _____ 012

(If you prefer you can call Carole Woodley on 01-443 8010 or Pauline Hewlett on 0872 279179 to discuss your requirements personally.)

London Life—over 175 years of assurance

Linda Lennard reviews the complexities of the invalidity benefit system and concludes that when in doubt, the best thing to do is claim.

Lost in a labyrinth

THE social security system facing people with disabilities is still very complex because of the failure of successive governments to introduce a comprehensive disability income scheme. But it is well worth their while to find a way through the labyrinth — they may be missing out on benefits to which they are entitled as of right.

What are the criteria for obtaining the various benefits? In the main, the cause of disability is not a determining factor. The main exceptions are industrial injuries and war pensions which are compensation schemes. The former is available to employees who suffer injury or disablement through an accident arising out of, or in the course of, work or who contracted a prescribed industrial disease. National insurance contributions do not matter — what counts is that the person is genuinely employed. Self-employed people are not eligible unless the ac-

cident happened while doing a specific form of voluntary work. The benefits available through the scheme include disablement benefit, special hardship allowance, and constant attendance allowance. The war pensions scheme covers people whose disability resulted from or was "aggravated" by military service in the first or second world war. There is a basic disablement pension plus extra allowances.

Apart from these schemes, entitlement to other social security benefits depends on a variety of criteria. Anyone unable to work because of sickness or disability will normally be entitled to statutory sick pay (SSP) paid through the employer for the first eight weeks off sick in a tax year. SSP is taxable and subject to deductions for national insurance contributions. Anyone still off work after eight weeks, can then go on to claim sickness benefit direct from the local DHSS office.

Some groups are excluded from SSP, e.g. people on short-term contracts. They — and others who are self-employed or unemployed — should claim sickness benefit straightaway. Sickness benefit is a tax-free contributory benefit — eligibility depends on the national insurance contribution record, as well as on medical evidence that the patient is incapable of work. To qualify for sickness benefit without the right contributions the patient must be incapable of work because of an industrial accident or disease.

Anyone who is still off work after 28 weeks, and has been paid sickness benefit (even at a reduced rate) can then claim full-rate invalidity benefit. This depends on continuing medical evidence of incapacity for work.

The basic rate for invalidity pension is £34.25 a week, plus £20.55 for an adult dependant, and £7.65 a week for each dependent child. Entitlement to an invalidity allowance depends on the age when the incapacity began e.g. £7.50 a week if it started before the age of 40. At present, there is also an additional earnings-related pension. Invalidity benefit is tax-free. Note that additions for adult and child dependants are determined by the level of a partner's earnings.

People who do not have the right contribution record to qualify for invalidity pension but have been incapable of work for at least 28 weeks, may be entitled to severe disablement allowance (SDA). This is a new benefit which replaced non-contributory invalidity pension (NCIP and HNCIP) last November. SDA is not means-tested or taxable. Claimants must be aged at least 16 and under State pension age (60 for women and 65 for men) before they can first be paid SDA. There is a residence condition — not only at present in Britain, but resident here for a total of 10 out of 20 years.

Nor is this the end of the qualifying conditions for SDA. Anyone who becomes incapable of work after the age of 20 must also meet a test of 80 per cent disability. Some groups are being "passported" automatically through the 80 per cent test — e.g. those receiving attendance or mobility allowance — others may have to go through a medical examination before getting SDA.

SDA is being phased in by age for new claimants (i.e. people who were not entitled to NCIP or HNCIP). Those aged 25 to 49 on November 29 1984 will have to wait until November 29 1985, or their 50th birthday if that is earlier, before becoming eligible.

So SDA has hardly simplified the system — on the contrary, it has imposed even more hurdles — but it is still worth claiming. The basic rate is £21.50 a week, plus £12.85 for an adult dependant, and £7.65 for each child (payable on top of child benefit). A full explanation of this complex benefit is given in the 1985 Disability Rights Handbook (a comprehensive guide to benefits and services for people with disabilities).

Two benefits — introduced in the 1970s — are also worth exploring for the severely disabled. Attendance allowance is a tax-free allowance for adults and children aged two or more, who are severely disabled either physically or mentally. They have to show that they have needed a lot of looking after for at least six months. It is payable at one of two rates: £28.60 a week for the people who satisfy the conditions for the day and the night; £19.10 a week for those who only satisfy the conditions for the day or the night. Note that people can qualify for attendance allowance if they are working or live alone — it is the need for attention or supervision that counts, not whether they are actually receiving all the help they need.

The other benefit is mobility allowance, payable to people aged 5 or over, and who have not reached their 66th birthday before claiming. To qualify, they must be unable to walk or virtually unable to walk, or the exertion required to walk would constitute a danger to life or be likely to lead to a serious deterioration in health. The walking difficulty must have a physical cause, but a person could also qualify if it is accepted that the mental handicap has a physical cause. Mobility allowance is

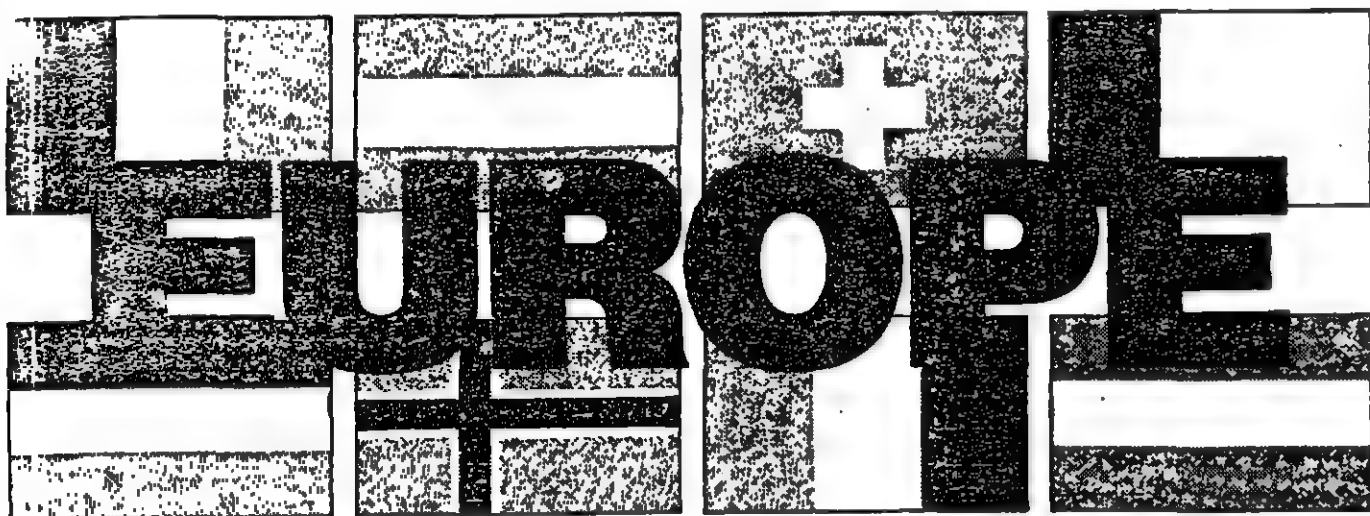
£20 a week, tax-free. Neither attendance nor mobility allowance is means-tested, and both are ignored when working out entitlement to supplementary benefit.

In the absence of a comprehensive disability income, supplementary benefit is vitally important. Entitlement depends solely on the level of income and amount of savings — normally anyone with savings above £3,000 will not qualify.

Supplementary benefit can be paid on top of sickness and invalidity benefits. As well as the basic scale rates which are meant to cover normal living requirements, there are weekly additions payable for special expenses. Ten out of the 14 additions are paid on the basis of disability. They include amounts for heating, laundry, diet and baths. Some of the additions are based on actual costs e.g. for laundry, and private domestic help. Single payments can also be made in some circumstances for particular items.

The supplementary benefit system is under considerable threat as one of the areas currently under government review. It is highly likely that additional payments and single payments will be abolished in the near future under the guise of "simplifying the system," so the best advice is to claim now while they still exist. In fact, this applies to all social security benefits — if in doubt, claim!

The Disability Rights Handbook for 1985 is now available from the Disability Alliance, 25 Denmark Street, London WC2 8JN, price £2.20 p.p.s. Also see DHSS leaflet NI 149 — a complete list of all DHSS leaflets and order form, available free from your local DHSS office.



The underestimated opportunity.

Europe's potential

This derives from changing policies which now emphatically favour the private sector to create growth and jobs. The effect has been marked. Companies used to years of low profits were forced to rationalize. They are now more competitive, more profitable and able to invest for the future.

Schroders know the markets

We have an investment office in Frankfurt and our own bank in Zurich. Our multi-lingual investment team is as at home with brokers in Paris as it is with bankers in Madrid. Our sophisticated network of economic intelligence in Europe is as long established as it is highly respected.

Schroder European Fund

The Fund, an authorised unit trust is backed by these resources and by the investment skills which service over £9,000m for our clients worldwide. Our aim is capital growth through a broad exposure to European stockmarkets — with emphasis on the stronger currency areas of Germany, Switzerland and Holland.

Smaller companies feature strongly too, because of their ability to grow faster. Those who lead in specialist niches — e.g. French champagne, biochemicals and computer software — are selected to complement our holdings in European blue-chips.

118% appreciation

Since January 1982 the offer price of units has risen by 118%.

We are confident that the next year offers particularly good prospects for continued growth. Currency opportunities add to the attractions acting as a hedge to investors against a further fall in the value of sterling.

How to Invest

On 20th February 1985 the offer price of Income Units was 68.5p with an estimated gross current yield of 1.61% p.a. Accumulation Units 69.2p.

Our Monthly Savings Plan enables investors, for a minimum of £25, to save through any of the 14 Schroder authorised Unit Trusts. To invest monthly simply fill in the relevant section in the coupon and send it with your initial contribution. This can be for more than the monthly sum. We will then send you the Direct Debiting Mandate. For further information about our Savings Plan and range of Unit Trusts, please contact our dealers on (0705) 827733.

To invest with a lump sum, please complete the coupon and return it with your cheque (minimum £500), or telephone our dealers.

Remember that the price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up. You should regard your investment as long term.

HIGHEST RATES FOR SEVEN-DAY MONEY!



UP TO **9.50% = 13.57%** P.A. GROSS
Super rates for £500-plus investors... and no penalties!

With simple, flexible Money Spinner Plus Northern Rock tops all leading U.K. building societies for seven-day money. Withdrawals require just seven days' notice and incur no penalties. You get big interest for the minimum investment of £500. The table shows how you can earn even more for larger amounts. Maximum investment is £30,000 (£60,000 jointly). Interest is paid annually in October or you can receive it as monthly income.

AMOUNT INVESTED	INTEREST PA*	GROSS PA†
£500 or more	9.00%	12.86%
£5,000 or more	9.25%	13.91%
£20,000 or more	9.50%	13.57%

*The rate may vary †Equivalent yield for basic rate taxpayers



Enquire at any Northern Rock branch or write to us FREEPOST Newcastle
Member of the Building Societies Association.
Authorised for investment by Trustees. Branches and Agents throughout the U.K. Assets exceed £4,300 million.

NORTHERN ROCK BUILDING SOCIETY

People with your interest at heart.

Ian Chapman, Northern Rock Building Society, FREEPOST, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 1BR.
Chief Office: Northern Rock House, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 4PL. Telephone: 091-285 7191.
City of London Office: Stone House, 128/140 Bishopsgate EC2M 4HX. Telephone: 01-247 6861.
Scottish Office: 27 Castle Street, Edinburgh EH2 3DN. Telephone: 031-225 3401.

GENERAL INFORMATION
Dealing in units may normally be bought or sold on any business day at prices quoted in several national newspapers. Applications will be acknowledged on receipt of your instructions and certificates will be despatched within six weeks. Repurchase proceeds will be forwarded within 10 days of receipt of renounced certificates by the Managers.
Charges An initial charge of 5% is included in the price of units. The annual charge is 1% of the units value plus VAT, which is deducted from the trusts income. The Trust Deed permits a maximum annual charge of 1% (12 months notice of this will be given to unit holders).

Commission for advisers Out of the initial charges, remuneration (at rates which are available on request) will be paid to authorised professional advisers on applications bearing their stamp.
Income Distributions of income out of basic rate tax are made twice yearly on 30 November and 31 May.
Managers Schroder Unit Trust Managers Limited (Members of the Unit Trust Association), Regent House, 14 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF. Registered Office: 120 Cheapside, London EC2N 6DS. England No 1630122.
Trustee: Lloyd's Bank Plc.

Schroder European Fund

To: Schroder Unit Trust Managers Ltd., Enterprise House, Lombard Street, Portsmouth PO1 2NL. Telephone: 0705 827733. 650

I wish to invest (minimum £500) £_____ in the Schroder European Fund at the price ruling on receipt of my cheque.

I wish to invest (minimum £25) £_____ per month in the Schroder European Fund and enclose my cheque for £_____ initial contribution.

Please allocate income / Accumulation Units (Delete as applicable).

A cheque is enclosed made payable to Schroder Unit Trust Managers Ltd.

Surname (Please letters please) _____ First Name (in full) _____

Address _____

Signature (in case of a joint holding all must sign) _____ Date _____

This offer is not available to residents of the Republic of Ireland. ☐ Please send me a copy of your brochure

Schroder Financial Management
LIMITED

UNIT TRUSTS LIFE ASSURANCE PENSIONS ASSET MANAGEMENT

A comprehensive service to individuals, private partnerships and companies.

NEW

Sharing out a joint account

YOUR MONEY LETTERS

answered by Margaret Dibben

MY Father is 90 years old and a widower. He wants me to be made a joint holder of his building society account so that the total investment can go above the £30,000 limit. The problem is that as an executor when my father dies, I shall be paying out to the other three beneficiaries from a joint account. Can the Inland Revenue regard these payments as gifts? — L. W. Leicester.

IN the event of your father's death, the balance of your joint account would be transferred to your name. You would then be allowed a short period in which to reduce it to the £30,000 limit permitted for individual account holders. The money in the account would then belong to you, so your father would have to rely on you to carry out his wishes with regard to the other beneficiaries. Any gifts made by you would be chargeable for CTT purposes, though amounts up to £24,000 attract a nil rate of tax. If you died within ten years of making the gifts, they would count as part of any CTT assessment against your estate.

Support plan

MY son is a mature student. His problem is that he has been running into debt because his grant of £2,000 a year is not enough for him to live on. So I have been thinking of transferring £3,200 from my building society to the National Savings Monthly Income Bond and let him have the interest in full. In March I shall be 65 and will receive the state pension only, plus about £1,700 a year interest free from savings. — G. J. Clacton.

YOU have an unenviable problem, on which it is very hard to advise, but I would not recommend your suggested solution, as it seems calculated to incur tax twice on the same money: you would be liable for tax on your interest from the income bond, and your son may well be liable also on the regular payments you make to him. It sounds as if you yourself can ill afford to forego income, and paying tax without any associated benefit would be very inefficient. If you really must, give your son part or all of the money to keep out, but it may be better to explore the possibility of his finding holiday jobs to supplement his grant.

Maintenance

I AM living with a man to whom I am not married but I am expecting his child. Would there be any tax advantage in taking out a court order for maintenance? — R. M. Luton.

YES, there would. On the assumption that you have no income in your own right any maintenance payments paid under court order by the father of your child would be

tax deductible for him and (up to £2,000) tax free in your hands. If the payments exceed £148 a month they would have to be paid net of basic rate tax and you would have to claim a tax rebate.

An even better solution would be for the father to pay maintenance direct to the child under a court order since this would enable the child's personal allowance to be used. At the same time he could take out a deed of covenant to you which, if you have no income, could be allowed by your personal allowance.

Half a house

I AM selling my house (bought 14/64 for £25,000) for £108,000. I estimate that agents' and solicitors' costs will amount to approximately £4,000 leaving £104,000 net. For several years I have let half-furnished. I am concerned about capital gains, I assume that I shall be liable for half of £104,000, i.e. £52,000 less £5,200 (original cost) and approximately £5,000 allowed for tax-free profit. This leaves net liability (at 30%) of approximately £12,360. I am nearly 75 years of age and propose retiring from letting furnished accommodation. Is there any way to avoid capital gains in whole or part? — R. J. W., London SW4.

WHAT you cannot do is claim "retirement relief" since this only applies to disposals of a business (which your letting does not constitute) or shares in a family company. But what you can do is obtain exemption on all of the gain except the part that accrued during the letting period on the half of the property that was let on the basis that the house was your main private residence throughout the period of ownership. You can further exempt the gain on the letting part of the property up to a maximum of £20,000 (£80,000 as amended). On the information given you will probably have to pay no CGT at all.

Charity money

I AM treasurer of a small hostel with charitable status. At present we have about £4,000 in a bank deposit account and £800 in a current account. We pay no tax. What would be our position after April 1985 and if we are to pay tax automatically where should I invest the deposit money bearing in mind that we do have pretty large fluctuations in outgoings and income? — N.H.A., Preston.

THE change in the rules for bank deposit interest mean that from April 6, 1985 such interest will be paid net and although the taxpayer can claim the corresponding tax credit this credit will not be available as a repayment. This puts bank deposit interest on the same terms as building society interest.

Fortunately, though, the new rules only apply to individuals. Companies and other corporate bodies, such as clubs and charities, will continue to receive bank interest gross and be assessed under Schedule D Case III. You should therefore deposit your charity's money wherever you can get the best gross return with the flexibility you require to make payments.



"Good morning. How much will it cost me if I open an account with you?"

Tax returns

UNTIL recently I was employed in the health service paying income tax under PAYE. At present I am self-employed. Should I notify my Inspector of Taxes or should I wait until they "catch up with me"? If I don't notify him can I be penalised financially? Secondly, I may wish to return to university to study although I will still require to work part-time to support myself. Would I be entitled to any rebate? — P. H. Mc., Holywood, N.I.

EVERY taxpayer has the duty to make an annual return to the Inland Revenue of his or her income. The penalties for failure to make a full disclosure range from £50 to £500 plus the unpaid tax (or twice that amount if the offence is through fraud or neglect) together with interest at 8 per cent per annum. Not only should you notify the Revenue, but you would also be well advised to make provision for the tax liability you incur as a self-employed taxpayer.

When you return to university and work part-time there is no particular tax relief to which you are entitled, but you may get a tax rebate if your previous earnings have not used up your personal allowance for the year.

Sterling worth

We are emigrating to Canada soon and wish to take our savings of £20,000 with us. However, the pound has fallen so badly in the past year, we feel this may be an

inappropriate time to convert into another currency. Would you advise us to change our money now before it gets worse, or to keep it in sterling until a more attractive rate prevails? — G. B., Yarmouth.

IT can't get much worse, I hope, and would agree with your instinct to hang on to your sterling for the time being. I would suggest you put your money into an offshore fund. There are many of these managed from the Channel Islands, offering a wide range of investments and denominated in various different currencies. Many publish prices daily in the Financial Times.

Claiming relief

I HAVE recently got divorced and have agreed with my ex-wife to pay her a lump sum payment of £3,000 and maintenance of £80 per month for our 10-year-old daughter. We are both standard rate taxpayers and I had originally intended that I should not claim tax relief on this money and then my wife would not need to pay tax on it as my daughter would be allowed the single person's personal allowance for her income. Is this correct and, if so, does the same apply to the lump sum payment? — M.W., Rhyl.

YOUR solicitor is right. If the £80 per month is paid directly to your daughter under a court order you will be able to claim tax relief on the payment and neither your daughter nor your ex-wife will be liable to income tax on the receipt. However, the lump sum payment does not fall under income tax — it may be better to persuade your ex-wife to accept increased monthly payments in place of the lump sum.

WHILE every effort is made to ensure accuracy in our replies, we cannot accept responsibility for any error that might inadvertently appear. We are unable to enter into correspondence personally, so no SAEs, please.

We guarantee to turn £500 of penny shares into £1,000 in just six weeks.



At 8am on Thursday 13th June 1985 we'll prove, conclusively, that it is still possible to double your money in just six weeks by investing in penny shares.

THE EXPERT'S EXPERT

Stockmarket Confidential (or SMC for short) is a rather inauspicious looking news sheet which is sent, by first class post, every Wednesday evening.

Despite its inauspicious appearance it is eagerly read on Thursday morning by a handful of investors up and down the country.

Some of these investors will be professional stock-brokers, heads of industry and other leading financial experts. Between them they may control, literally, millions of pounds.

Others will be smaller, private investors sometimes with as little as £500 or £1,000 with which to speculate.

But what every reader of Stockmarket Confidential has in common is the desire to discover what is likely to happen on the stock market that coming week.

Bluntly, they want to know which shares are going to go up, and which shares are going to come down. And they want to know why.

THE SECRET OF INVESTMENT SUCCESS

The only way to make money on the stock market is to have reliable advice and the ability to move fast, before the word gets around and prices rocket.

In Stockmarket Confidential we make buying and selling recommendations, offer sound investment analysis and, most important of all, suggest one or more "Hot Tips" for the week.

If you haven't acted on our "Hot Tips" by Thursday lunchtime you've missed the boat — other SMC subscribers will have already pushed prices up.

You'll discover that very often the best investments are the "penny shares"... Samson Exploration, for instance, which rocketed from 12p to 52p in just 42 days... Bellair Cosmetics from 23p to £10.50... Collins Photographic from 27p to £3.25... just three examples from a long list of recently successful "penny shares".

WHY YOU CAN ACT WITH SUCH CONFIDENCE

Each week the editor of SMC chairs a private meeting of the SMC Board of Advisors. Together these financial specialists pool information, validate sources, and discuss the latest City whispers. At the end of the meeting they will have chosen the three hottest tips and decided whether or not to sell shares previously recommended.

We guarantee that none of these tips will be leaked by the SMC Editorial Board, or published, except in SMC.

FREE PRIZE DRAW

HOW WE WILL PROVE THE SEEMINGLY IMPOSSIBLE

As we've already explained, we believe it is still regularly possible to double your money in as little as six weeks by trading in penny shares.

In order to prove it we will enter your name in our next Free Prize Draw which takes place on

PROFIT RECORD SINCE 3rd OCTOBER 1984

Share type	Bought for	Sold for	% Gain
Amalgamated	25p	22.5p	47%
Amalgamated	25p	25p	31%
BSO International	10p	20p	95%
Callan Street	24p	45p	78%
Ellen and Robbins	5p	8p	59%
Haynes Publishing	12p	25p	123%
Link House	25p	75p	197%
Quest Automation	35p	65p	72%
Westminster and	110p	145p	27%
Country Properties	120p	60p	24%
United Spring &	14p	20p	38%
Ellisdon	22p	30p	42%
York Chemical	64p	70p	25%

30th April 1985, all you need to do is complete and return the coupon below.

If you win, you'll receive £500 to spend or invest as you please.

World suggest that you invest it in any one of our "Hot Tips" for that week. Because if you do, and your £500 of shares aren't worth £1,000 by 13th June 1985, we'll make up the difference in cash.

That's right, we're so confident that our advice is sound we believe that £500 will be worth £1,000 in just six weeks!

Everyone is welcome to enter this Free Prize Draw. No purchase is necessary. Full rules on request.

SEND BY 5th MARCH 1985

Without obligation

Please send to:

STOCKMARKET CONFIDENTIAL

Main Road, Little Heath,

Ramford, Essex RM8 5PN

It will cost you nothing to discover how profitable the information in SMC can be. Order your six free issues and enter the Free Prize Draw today!

Please send me the FREE

Cash pocket calculator

(subscription only)

If I decide to subscribe I will

receive my first year's subscription

for just £72.

NAME (CAPS) _____

ADDRESS _____

SIGNED _____ DATE _____

TO: _____ BANK PLC

BRANCH/ADDRESS _____

A/C No (IF KNOWN) _____

BANKERS ORDER Please pay to the order of Stockmarket Confidential (Stockmarket Publications Ltd, Ac. no. 910845358 at Midland Bank Plc., 100 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF) TWO MONTHS FROM THE DATE SHOWN and thereafter the sum of £144.00 each year on the anniversary of the date shown being my membership to Stockmarket Confidential and debit my account accordingly until countermanded by me in writing.

SM117

FREE CALCULATOR

When you apply for this Free Trial offer we will also send you this superb pocket calculator FREE.

It's yours to keep whether you subscribe or not. Very useful for working out your Stock Market profits.

SMC WEEKLY CONTENTS

* One or more "Hot Tips" — act by Thursday lunchtime before other subscribers push up the prices.

* Portfolio monitor — watching shares already tipped and recommending sells where appropriate.

* Investment analysis including gold, building societies and gilts.

* Valuable inside information for long term capital growth.

As a subscriber you will be given a "Hot Tip Hotline" phone number, so that if you're away from home on a Thursday you can hear a summary of that week's SMC.

FREE! SIX TRIAL ISSUES

Of course, share prices can go down, as well as up. But we don't want you to risk a penny of your own money until you're convinced that you will make a profit by acting on our advice.

So if you return the completed delayed action standing order below, we'll rush you the next six issues of SMC absolutely free.

This way you can profit from our experts' invaluable advice for six whole weeks at no cost to yourself.

If you're not convinced that the vital information which SMC contains is worth £144 a year, then just write to your bank and cancel your banker's order before the payment date.

SAVE £72!

In addition to six free issues you can also receive the balance of your first year's subscription to SMC for just £72.

But you must order by 5th March 1985.

STOCKMARKET CONFIDENTIAL

Main Road, Little Heath, Ramford, Essex RM8 5PN

SEND BY 5th MARCH 1985

Looking for a Top Rate of Interest?

Well, look no further

9.75%*

is the new net rate with

Coventry Building Society's Limited Issue 2 YEAR BOND

and that's worth

9.99%†

when interest is added to the account each half-year.

Investing in a 2 Year Bond means

- Guaranteed 2.25% extra interest above our variable Investment Account rate
- Monthly or half-yearly interest
- Early closure on just 90 days notice during which time no interest will be earned
- Minimum investment £1000

* Current net rate to investors paying basic rate Income Tax at 30%.

† Effective annual rate when half-yearly interest is added to the account.

FULL NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

POST CODE _____

☐ Please send me/us full details of the 2 Year Bond

☐ I/we wish to open a 2 Year Bond and enclose cheque

No. _____ For £ _____

Coventry Building Society, Dept D.S.B., RO, Box 9, High Street, Coventry, CV1 5ER

Telephone (0203) 555255

Coventry Building Society

Member of the Building Societies Association. Registered Office: 100 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF.

£21,277 PER YEAR

for your retirement for £21 per month*

The Canada Life Personal Pension Builder ensures your well-being in retirement. The plan is specially designed for the Self-Employed and those in a job without a pension. It only costs £21 per month. In return for this modest amount our comprehensive package can give you:

- £21,277 a year for life from age 65 or
- £45,527 tax free lump sum at age 65 and
- £14,075 a year pension for life from age 65
- £16,026 life assurance protection to age 65
- Extensive loan facilities
- Choice of investment routes
- Single premium facility
- Option for contributions to be paid during illness.

FULL TAX RELIEF APPLIES

*Example based on a male age 20 first birthday assuming a long growth rate of 12% p.a. and income tax rate of 43 (30p) or a gross contribution of £30 per month.

Ring 01-200 0200 now or post the coupon below

To: The Canada Life Assurance Company, FREEPOST, Potters Bar, Herts. EN6 5YA

No stamp required — we pay the postage and will send you, without obligation, a FREE BOOKLET.

Name Mr/Ms/Ms/Ms _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Date of birth _____

Canada Life

Securing the future since 1847

With a healthy pension under your belt, a good evening out won't be out of the question when you retire.

In fact, retirement is the time to sit

lot more pension in the pockets of those who are self-employed or not in a company pension scheme.

Money that will let you paint the town red without going into the red.

NPI's excellent reputation for healthy retirement provision has been 150 years in the making.

And thoroughly deserved, as any reputable financial adviser will tell you.

He'll also tell you how SERP's flexibility enables

Want your pension to suit your lifestyle? Choose NPI, for the no.1 pension plan.

back and enjoy the fruits of your pension planning.

And, when it comes to pensions, there can be few as fruitful as an NPI Self-Employed Retirement Plan (SERP).

Over the last eleven years "Planned Savings" magazine has conducted an annual survey of personal pension plans based on their past performance.

In every one of these reviews we have been in the top four with profit plans.

In the December 1984 survey, the performance of our SERP policy, reviewed over the longer term, gained us the coveted top position for the fourth time.

"Planned Savings" is one of the most respected independent authorities on personal pension plans.

So, being top of their survey is rather like winning an Oscar for best performance.

The sort of performance that can put a

us to adjust your pension contributions to suit your circumstances exactly.

And how, in the event of new pensions legislation, your plan will be modified without any administrative charge.

If you'd like to find out what the No. 1 pension plan could do for you, post the coupon today.

In return we'll send you our easy to understand SERP booklet. The easy way to put more style into your life when you retire.

To: John Fisher, National Provident Institution, 48 Gracechurch Street, London EC3V 0BB. Please send me a copy of your "Self-Employed Retirement Plan" Booklet.

Name _____ Address _____

Name of financial adviser (if any) _____

NPI IT PAYS TO LISTEN TO EXPERTS.



ROSE HEDGING

Hedging can be used for a variety of purposes, not only to define a boundary, but also as a means of breaking up areas to provide interest, and as a way of disguising ugly fences or an unsightly view. A well-grown rose-hedge is ideal for these purposes, and has the advantage of looking attractive too. The bushes of the 'Rosa rugosa' are planted 9 to 10 inches apart and then allowed to grow to the desired height, which is then maintained by light trimming. The variety produces a profusion of sweet-smelling pink flowers during the summer months, followed by bright orange hips which give welcome autumn colour. Rose hedging is hardy and vigorous, in a relatively short time forming a dense and virtually impenetrable barrier.

Price: Pack of 25 plants - £5.50
Pack of 50 plants - £9.95
Please allow up to 14-21 days for delivery. The price includes VAT and postage. Money is refundable on all goods on demand. Orders and enquiries should be sent to Guardian Hedging Offer, Bourne Road, Bexley, Kent DA5 1BL. Tel: (0322) 33316 for enquiries only.

Please send me.....packs of Hedging Plants £5.50 per pack
Please send me.....packs of 50 Rose Hedging Plants £9.95 per pack
I enclose cheque/PO for £.....made payable to Guardian Hedging Offer, or debit my Access/Visa Card No.....
Signature.....
Name.....
Address.....
Reg No 384236

COMPOST BINS AT A FRACTION OF THE PRICE YOU COULD PAY FOR BINS OF THIS CAPACITY.

Quickly rot kitchen and garden waste into rich organic compost - keeps the garden tidy too!

COMPARE PRICES - You could pay over twice this price for plastic compost bins of these capacities. Buy direct from the manufacturer and save 25%.

STANDARD	LARGE	KING SIZE
74 cubic feet 24 in x 27 in high	127 cubic feet 48 in x 27 in high	27 cubic feet 48 in x 27 in high
£6.99 (plus £1.00 inc)	£8.49 (plus £1.00 inc)	£11.49 (plus £1.00 inc)

Made from recycled green polypropylene. Sturdy but light to handle. No rot, no rust, no splintering. Guaranteed to last 10 years. Dispatched in 7-10 days. Send cheque/PO to: ARDENCO LTD (Dept. GUCM), 1, Rosebery Ave, Milton Newbury, Leics.

Some seed some smell

TO STOCK a garden entirely with plants that you had raised from seed would require a self-denying ordinance, and I have never heard of anyone attempting it. But there is no doubt it could be a brilliant success and no need to rely on ephemeral displays by annuals and biennials.

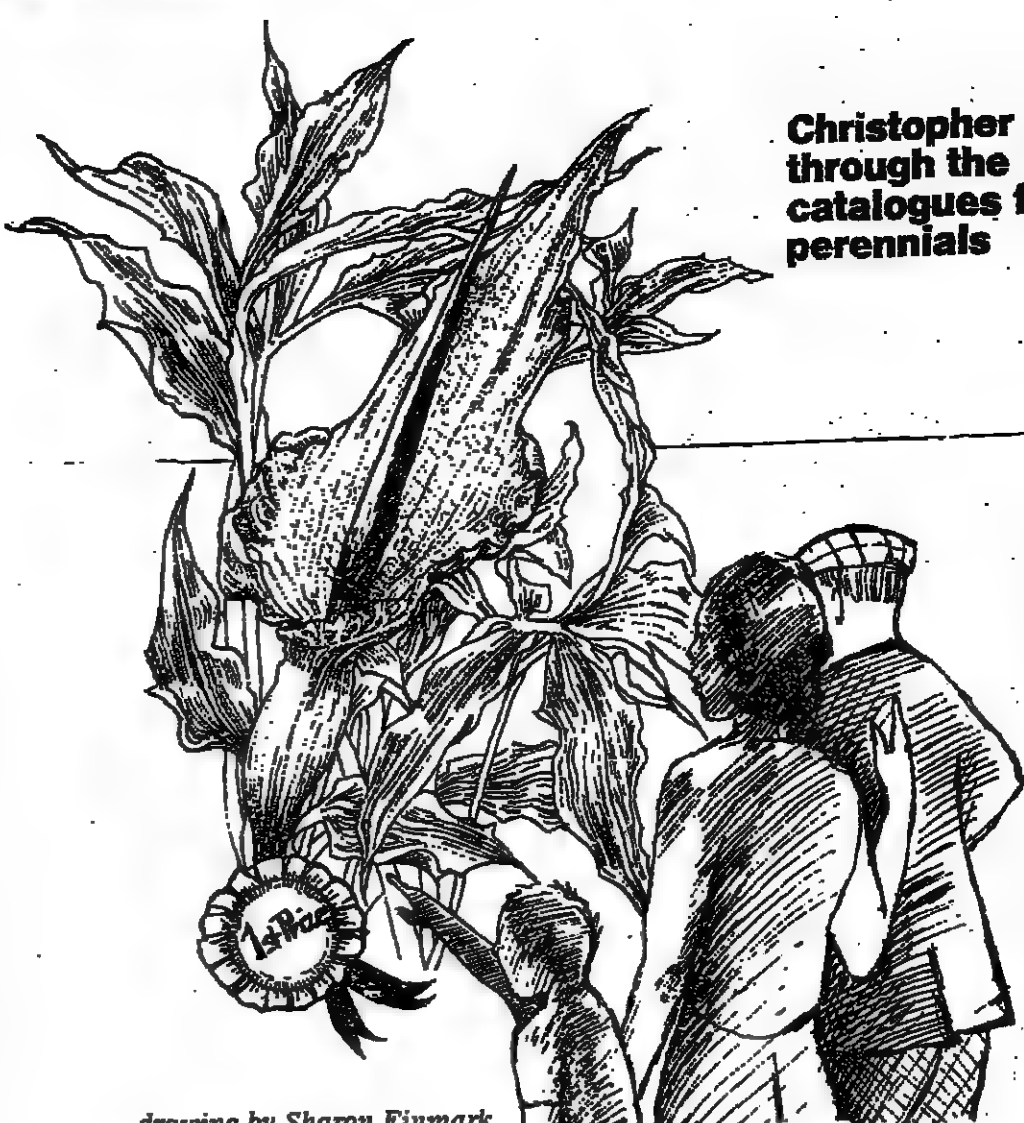
Here follow notes on some of the perennials that my eye has lighted upon while scanning through this season's seed lists. Most of them are from Thompson & Morgan's catalogue (London Road, Ipswich), as theirs is by far the most extended and wide ranging, but Chiltern Seeds (Bortree Stile, Ulverston, Cumbria) are enterprising, too, and their comments on each item make excellent reading.

It is they who offer Euphorbia wallchii, which is a stout, many-stemmed perennial up to 3ft. high. Anyone who has visited the Gullmar area in Kashmir will remember the splendid plant in July, often associated with a relation of the royal fern, Osmunda claytoniana. Cattle and sheep ignore it - a major survival factor. It is a major survival factor here if you live next to a farm. I can't imagine it being rabbit's relish either. Cool lime green inflorescences and stem leaves clearly picked out with whitened central veins.

The American butterfly weed, Asclepias tuberosa, can be had from Chiltern, T & M, and Thomas Butcher (Shirley, Croydon, Surrey). It is an unusual perennial, 2ft. tall with heads of intriguingly shaped flowers in late summer, in shades of orange. Really it gives of its best where the summers are hotter than ours, but it has been excellent with me these last two years and even ripened seed last autumn. Seedlings will flower in their second year. I like to get them potted individually in their first. T & M also offer a hybrid strain called Gay Butterflies in which there is greater variation in colour. From my sowing of this last spring, I only germinated one seedling, so I am trying again this year.

There are many out-of-the-way poppies which one seldom meets and they all contribute that gladdening freshness which is the poppy's hallmark. Papaver heliopteryx (offered by T & M, as P. spicatum) is a 2ft. perennial with pale silky foliage. Its long spikes of apricot coloured flowers set close against the stem, open successively in early summer over quite an extended period. It will flower the second year and carry on from there.

If Kniphofia uvaria Nobilis is the genuine article, it will grow to 7ft. or 8ft. in good soil



drawing by Sharon Finnmark

Christopher Lloyd looks through the 1985 seed catalogues for interesting perennials

will move on from these to the roots of other genera. It seems to have taken a shine to the roots of the yellow hedging behind a clump of pollarded willows where I started it. The hooded flowers appear in clusters close to the ground from early March to May and are bright aniline purple in colouring, rather like crocuses at a distance. You can see masses of them along the Backs at Cambridge. There are no leaves and no noticeably harmful effects on the host tree or on its owner.

Odd jobbing

IF it is not already done, all pots and seed trays must be cleaned before the busy season. This is nothing more than a housekeeping job, sowing and nurturing seeds only to see young hopefuls struck down in ever-increasing damping off fungi. Sometimes, affected seedlings do not even emerge above the compost. More often, circular patches of seedlings topple over as their stems or roots become rotted. Infected plants should be removed and destroyed immediately.

There is no cure, so the only treatment is prevention: using disinfectant to wash all used plant containers (whether infected or not) and ensuring that conditions are conducive to rapid, healthy growth.

Although most half-hardy annuals are sown under glass in March and April, begonias, nasturtiums and lobelia can all be started off now. The aim is to sow seeds evenly and not too thickly on to a firm (not compacted) level seed compost. The smallest seeds need to be covered at all, others with a light sprinkling of compost. A fine rose is needed for watering and then the seed can be stowed away in a warm place (about 20deg. C. for most seeds). They need protection from frost, a polythene or film cover and shading from the sun. When the daily inspection reveals 60 per cent germination, the seedlings should be brought out into the light.

HILARY APPLEGATE

The New ESSEX opening cloche
A GREAT MONEY SAVER..

You don't have to be a keen gardener to appreciate the benefits of this unique cloche. If you want early vegetable, fruit, and salad crops you will find the Essex Cloche the most effective, easiest to use cloche you have ever tried. Our illustration shows how it works and the whole thing can be assembled and operational in a few minutes. Unlike conventional cloches that must be lifted for access to the unique design of the Essex Cloche allows instant access to either side by sliding up one of the crystal clear plastic P.V.C. side panels forming its protective cover.

The Essex Cloche is 12" wide, 9" high, staked to a depth of 6" and is available in 2 Cloche Packs 6' long or 3 Cloche Packs 9' long complete with P.V.C. and panels and comes with easy assembly instructions. Our price includes all post, packing, and handling charges. We despatch within 7 days from receipt of order. If you are not delighted with your purchase return for a full and courteous refund.

6' Cloche - £8.95; 9' Cloche - £9.95; 2 x 6' Cloches - £12.95; 2 x 9' Cloches - £16.95.

ESSEX Essex Products Ltd., Cutlers Road, South Woodham Ferrers, Chelmsford, Essex CM3 5ST

GUARDIAN PERSONAL

FOR SALE

EMOTIONS EVER WONDERED WHAT they are for? Now they won't! This is the first book to be published in 100 years on the subject of emotions. It is a complete guide to the human mind, its powers and its weaknesses. It is a must for all who are interested in the human mind. Price £9.95. Tel: 01-948 7652.

TUITION

HEALTH FOR ALL

A Week End Course in London and Oxford March designed to help you maintain and improve your own health and that of those around you by the use of alternative medicine. Includes a full day of practical work. Tel: 01-948 7652.

YOUR HOME - YOUR CASTLE

DISCOUNT BEDS

YOU'LL BE HARD PRESSED TO BEAT OUR PRICES

11 High Street, Barnet, Herts. Tel: 01-440 3174

WROUGHT IRON LANTERNS

COACH LAMPS

Write on telephone for more information. Tel: 01-948 7652.

ACTIVITY HOLIDAYS

Treat the WHOLE FAMILY to a PGL Adventure Holiday

You don't have to send the kids off for a good time by themselves. You can join them for a holiday full of fun, excitement and adventure. Tel: 01-948 7652.

SELF-CATERING UK

THE CREAM OF COTTAGES

By Post

The best self-catering cottages in the country. Tel: 01-948 7652.

CORNISH CRAFTSMEN'S COTTAGES

For your comfort and convenience, we have a selection of cottages in Cornwall. Tel: 01-948 7652.

LAKE DISTRICT

FULLY FURNISHED COTTAGES

Available for week or longer lets. Tel: 01-948 7652.

WALES

PRESERVE THE HEART OF PEMBROKESHIRE

Breastfeeding cubs, sea birds, superb beaches. Tel: 01-948 7652.

WANTED

SECONDHAND BOOKS on Music, Cinema, Literature, etc. Tel: 01-948 7652.

MUSIC

PIANOS: H. LANE & SON have a selection of pianos for sale. Tel: 01-948 7652.

PINE SALE ENDS SUNDAY

THE LARGEST STOCK OF FINEST QUALITY PINE FURNITURE AT THE VERY LOWEST PRICES IN YOUR AREA.

Tel: 01-948 7652.

QUALITY PERIOD ELECTRIC FIRES

For free colour catalogue and price list, write to: Tel: 01-948 7652.

IT'S BRILLIANT FUN

LAKE DISTRICT WALKING HOLIDAYS WITH A DIFFERENCE

Small guided groups. Tel: 01-948 7652.

RIDING HOLIDAYS FOR "PONY" CHILDREN

A complete holiday menu for children up to 16 years. Tel: 01-948 7652.

LEISURELY CYCLING OR WALKING

or walking in the Lake District. Tel: 01-948 7652.

CYCLOTRAM HOLIDAYS

Group hire of Cyclotrams. Tel: 01-948 7652.

SELF-CATERING UK

YORKSHIRE MOORS & DALES

Self-catering cottages. Tel: 01-948 7652.

HEALTH AND FITNESS

ALL IONIZERS Try one on 60-day trial! Tel: 01-948 7652.

BUSINESS TO BUSINESS

FREEHOLD INDUSTRIAL PLOTS With services, at Wellington. Tel: 01-948 7652.

FOR SALE

RAISE CASH for personal and business use. Tel: 01-948 7652.

STOKECROFT ARTS

HANDMADE BEDS & MATTRESSES TO ANY SIZE

"Come and see our 13 different and exciting bed designs in first quality pine and 5 hardwoods, and 5 qualities of hand-made mattresses."

LAKE DISTRICT WALKING HOLIDAYS WITH A DIFFERENCE

Small guided groups. Tel: 01-948 7652.

LAKE DISTRICT WALKING HOLIDAYS WITH A DIFFERENCE

Small guided groups. Tel: 01-948 7652.

LAKE DISTRICT WALKING HOLIDAYS WITH A DIFFERENCE

Small guided groups. Tel: 01-948 7652.

LAKE DISTRICT WALKING HOLIDAYS WITH A DIFFERENCE

Small guided groups. Tel: 01-948 7652.

LAKE DISTRICT WALKING HOLIDAYS WITH A DIFFERENCE

Small guided groups. Tel: 01-948 7652.

1950's AUCTION SALE

FRIDAY 1st and SATURDAY 2nd MARCH, 1985 at 6pm and 10am

At ASHBY'S THE AUCTIONEERS, 6 Crosswell Lane, Hillhead, GLASGOW G12.

FUTON CENTRE

"New shop" opening offer

Save up to £31 on a FUTON and Base.

GLIDING HOLIDAY

Free day trial with 100m. Tel: 01-948 7652.

PERSONAL CONTINUES ON PAGE 29

PERSONAL CONTINUES ON PAGE 29

Lloyd looks 1985 seed or interesting

GO WEST, young owner occupier, that seems to be the advice to anyone thinking of taking out a mortgage. Over the past year or so a welter of L-shaped States banks, as well as their financial subsidiaries, have been scrutinising the domestic United Kingdom mortgage scene, and have decided that they want an increasing role in the provision of mortgage finance in this country.

Some of the biggest US institutions such as Citibank, arguably the biggest commercial bank in the world - Bank of America, Chemical Bank have all opted for a substantial slice of the mortgage market in the UK, while other US institutions such as Commercial Credit and Security Pacific and Canada's Bank of Montreal, are also moving in on the once exclusive preserve of the UK building societies.

But are these Johnny-come-latelys to the UK home buying scene a force to be reckoned with? That do they really think that the mortgage borrower cannot get from a writer of established UK financial institutions, who are banking at the seams with mortgage money? And who are they interested in the UK market anyway?

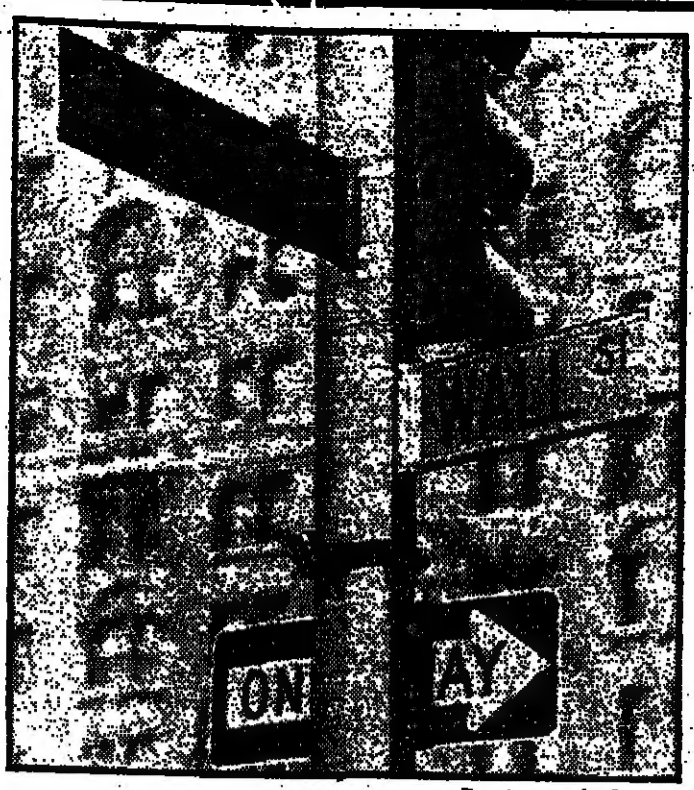
Interest has been generated in the UK home loan business by the increasing trend to more market geared interest rates charged for home loans.

The ending of the building societies' cartel 18 months ago led directly to a more commercial attitude towards lending. The societies first priority, in not limiting lending to the domestic market, was low, but meeting mortgage demand and letting interest rates find their own level.

As we have seen in the latest round of interest rate rises, the major societies at least, were not slow to increase their rates as bank rates went up.

The attraction, then, for any lender to the domestic mortgage market is the rates of interest which currently prevail and the "safe" nature of the investment they are making. Defaults on mortgage lending overall have been calculated at less than one tenth of one per cent for the first half of 1984 according to figures based on 82 per cent of building society lending.

Other factors which have whetted the appetite of US lenders are the strong dollar



Pointers to the future

Funds available for mortgages are being swelled by American money, says Tim Roberts

For a few dollars more

In relation to the pound, with little risk that the pound is going to rise substantially in the short term, and the high level of real interest rates in the UK, which are at a record level of nearly 9 per cent after taking into account inflation.

The major US institutions say they intend to commit billions of dollars to the UK mortgage market in the next few years. It is not the commitment, but the American know-how which makes the fact that the banks are coming so significant.

BankAmerica, for example, markets the mortgages and makes sure that the debt is repaid by the mortgage borrower, but the actual lender of the money is a separate financial institution which is borrowing the cash from the international money markets and lending it on to house buyers through Bank America.

Government on the type of lending that building societies can engage in. Recent technical changes mean that building societies can now act as secured lenders, and the administrative work in servicing the mortgage loan without having to carry the debt themselves.

This is an important development in the UK mortgage scene, and the chairman of the Halifax Building Society, the biggest house finance institution in the world, pointed out that the society is not planning a further large increase in its mortgage lending in the current year.

The savings inflow we would require would be so high as to push up interest rates to an unacceptably high level. He said that his society's demand for savings was greater than that of the Government's Department of National Savings, and that decisions on how much the Halifax was to borrow in the course of a year have direct consequences for the economy in general.

But as the Building Societies Association points out, the level of demand for mortgage finance is expected to increase to £100 billion a year by the turn of the century, while societies will require net receipts of more than £20 billion a year to finance that demand. US lenders could have an increasingly important role to play in satisfying that demand.

At present there is little to choose between a domestic and an American mortgage lender in terms of the deals offered. Interest rates, earnings multiples, percentage of valuation offered, differential rates for larger loans, are all on a par with societies and UK banks, although there are, of course, differences between lenders.

Security Pacific, for example, has an inverted differential structure, charging higher rates for smaller loans. The attraction of the US lender is not the terms on offer but could be the enthusiasm for getting a foothold in the lucrative UK market.

In the longer term, we may be thankful for the American interest in the mortgage market, as it seems likely that the level of demand for mortgage finance will outstrip even the vast resources of the Halifax Building Society. We are reaching the limits of a system in which personal savings can provide mortgages



PROPERTY OVERSEAS

ALICANTE VILLA BARGAINS

Deluxe 2 bedroom villas with superb sea views surrounded by citrus groves

only 2,450,000 plus approx 12,250 (land extra) Finance available for last few remaining villas

Inspection flights March 1st and every weekend

CHARDE Tel: 060-77-2097

BAQUEIRA BERET

SPAIN'S FINEST SKI RESORT Large luxury apartments from £20,000

Spanish Ski Properties 50 Tibbalds St, Liverpool L2 2DT Tel: 051-727 4641 & 051-427 3557

NERJA - SPAIN

New joint ownership system Superb fully furnished deluxe villas

Summer period (6 months) £12,500 Winter period (6 months) £2,500

Costa Blanca

Two houses near beach and from £15,000

Costa Blanca

Two houses near beach and from £15,000

Costa Blanca

ALMERIA

SAN JOSE 30 minutes from Almeria Airport and one of Southern Spain's prettiest fishing villages

New and resale 1 & 2 bedroom villas and apartments overlooking the bay

from £19,250

MOLACAR beach apartments 2 & 3 bedrooms

from £19,750

PETER A. MILLS, FPCs P & S MILLS LTD

Castle Mills 23a Castle Street Salisbury Wilt SP1 1TT Tel: (01292) 334551

COSTA BLANCA

EXHIBITIONS of properties in MORRIS CALPE JAVEA TORREVALENCIA SANTA POLA

from Feb 22nd 12 noon-8 pm

THE LADROCK MERCURY Hotel Sagunto Rd, BURGASS

ARDALIA LTD

Write or phone for 1985 brochures

UP TO 15% OFF

14 Station Road High Wycombe Bucks HP11 1TL High Wycombe (0494) 21541

Buigourdream home

COSTA DEL SOL

Choose from our wide range of properties along the whole coastline

One, two and three bedroom studios available from £10,000

Buy with confidence from C.S.R. a British-based company

We employ regional agents to make buying easy

Contact us now for details

Suite 27 4th Floor, Morley House 320, Regent St, London W1

Telephone 01-292 8244

GOLDEN OPPORTUNITIES IN SPAIN

Villas, Apartments, Estates, Farms, Castles, Businesses, Companies, Land etc

FROM £20,000 TO £250,000

Mortgages and Letting Income Available

Details/Folder from

JELL PROPERTIES

21 BURNFORD AVENUE, PORTLAND, Dorset

Tel: 0131 3627 44 (4 hours)

LAS MARINAS

COSTA BLANCA

OPEN CHALLENGE TO ANYONE WHO CAN SELL FLATS OF THIS QUALITY AT THIS PRICE

New small block flats with pools, tennis & squash courts, lots of greenery and views of sea. One bedroomed flats from £10,000. Two bedroomed flats from £12,000. Three bedroomed flats from £15,000.

MEAT 515-15 YOU CAN

Telephone: 01-229 9648

Find the perfect property in PAPHOS

RETIREMENT HOLIDAYS INVESTMENT

Accommodation from £27,900

Villas and Bungalows from £22,000

Management Service

Low-cost inspection trips

Attractive terms of payment

LEPTOS STAYATES, 451 Westbury Rd London W15 3PL

Tel: 01-811 3545

Why Not

spend your winters in the warmth and comfort of your own apartment in a 4-star luxury hotel in a front line position on the

COSTA DEL SOL

Freehold & Furnished

Details from LANDAR OVERSEAS PROPERTIES

Portland Chambers Portland, Hampshire

Telephone: 0232 221155

FOR SALE TO LET

IN VENICE (DORTMUND) 3 bedrooms, newly decorated, 131 000

Controlled flats, houses for sale from £20,000

Small town houses, houses for sale from £20,000

Renovated farmhouse 2000 sq ft from £20,000

100 sq ft modern house with 4 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms

Call 0203 29777 (Mon-Sat)

TEMPERLEY, Palm Beach, The Lagoon, 100 sq ft, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms

Tel: 01-292 8244

How improving homes could stop the rot

"STOP the rot of our ageing homes, create jobs, and make a positive contribution to the country's economic recovery while at the same time benefiting the community at large," is the plea from the National Home Improvement Council in a resolution sent to Mr Ian Gow, Minister for Housing and Construction. The resolution calls on the

Minister and the Government to review their proposals to cut back local authority expenditure, to take the fullest consultation before amending the home improvement grant system and to take note of the "opportunities being missed" by not investing in the housing stock. It arises from a special meeting of the NHIC to commend the

council's discussion document, improving Our Homes. The paper makes several proposals, including an increase in public expenditure on housing, the removal of VAT on repairs, as well as improvements; a reform of the rating system; the phased de-control of rents in the private sector; a Government

backed Warranty Scheme for builders; and a more adventurous approach to repair improvement. The paper points out that United Kingdom expenditure on housing has fallen to a percentage of GDP in the lowest in the EEC. It says that cuts have fallen more heavily on housing than on any other item of public expenditure.

GENERAL

£180 CONVEYANCING

For buying your home and finding your mortgage. A FLAT, NO DISBURSEMENTS. A FLAT, NO DISBURSEMENTS.

BARRETT'S THE SOLICITORS 40 Great North Street, E.C.1. Tel: 01-252 8551

£250 CONVEYANCING (+ VAT & DISBURSEMENTS) BY SOLICITORS

ANY PROPERTY & ANY AREA ANY PRICE

For professional, economical conveyancing and mortgage services. Tel: 01-252 8551

FOR PROFESSIONAL, ECONOMICAL CONVEYANCING AND MORTGAGE SERVICES. Tel: 01-252 8551

BUYING OR SELLING A HOUSE? Now on lead line with this established service. Tel: 01-252 8551

LOW COST CONVEYANCING. P.C.I. Tel: 01-252 8551

NEW HOMES

"HOLLIES CLOSE" Shepton Mallet

£25,000

Enjoy your own peaceful and pleasant environment

Only 200 yards walk to all shopping facilities

For details, contact: Tel: 01-252 8551

IRELAND

IRELAND

KINSALE CO. CORK

Detached holiday home, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 100 sq ft, 100 sq ft

Call 01-252 8551

WILKINSON'S

WILKINSON'S

NORTH EAST ENGLAND

THREE BEDROOMED, 7-year-old, detached bungalow with solid fuel heating, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 100 sq ft, 100 sq ft

Call 01-252 8551

THREE BEDROOMED, 7-year-old, detached bungalow with solid fuel heating, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 100 sq ft, 100 sq ft

Call 01-252 8551

THREE BEDROOMED, 7-year-old, detached bungalow with solid fuel heating, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 100 sq ft, 100 sq ft

Call 01-252 8551

THREE BEDROOMED, 7-year-old, detached bungalow with solid fuel heating, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 100 sq ft, 100 sq ft

Call 01-252 8551

THREE BEDROOMED, 7-year-old, detached bungalow with solid fuel heating, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 100 sq ft, 100 sq ft

Call 01-252 8551

THREE BEDROOMED, 7-year-old, detached bungalow with solid fuel heating, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 100 sq ft, 100 sq ft

Call 01-252 8551

THREE BEDROOMED, 7-year-old, detached bungalow with solid fuel heating, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 100 sq ft, 100 sq ft

Call 01-252 8551

THREE BEDROOMED, 7-year-old, detached bungalow with solid fuel heating, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 100 sq ft, 100 sq ft

Call 01-252 8551

THREE BEDROOMED, 7-year-old, detached bungalow with solid fuel heating, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 100 sq ft, 100 sq ft

Call 01-252 8551

THREE BEDROOMED, 7-year-old, detached bungalow with solid fuel heating, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 100 sq ft, 100 sq ft

Call 01-252 8551

THREE BEDROOMED, 7-year-old, detached bungalow with solid fuel heating, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 100 sq ft, 100 sq ft

Call 01-252 8551

SCOTLAND

SKELMORE, AYRSHIRE, 100 sq ft, 100 sq ft

Call 01-252 8551

SKELMORE, AYRSHIRE, 100 sq ft, 100 sq ft

Call 01-252 8551

SKELMORE, AYRSHIRE, 100 sq ft, 100 sq ft

Call 01-252 8551

SKELMORE, AYRSHIRE, 100 sq ft, 100 sq ft

Call 01-252 8551

SKELMORE, AYRSHIRE, 100 sq ft, 100 sq ft

Call 01-252 8551

SKELMORE, AYRSHIRE, 100 sq ft, 100 sq ft

Call 01-252 8551

SKELMORE, AYRSHIRE, 100 sq ft, 100 sq ft

Call 01-252 8551

SKELMORE, AYRSHIRE, 100 sq ft, 100 sq ft

Call 01-252 8551

SKELMORE, AYRSHIRE, 100 sq ft, 100 sq ft

Call 01-252 8551

SKELMORE, AYRSHIRE, 100 sq ft, 100 sq ft

Call 01-252 8551

SKELMORE, AYRSHIRE, 100 sq ft, 100 sq ft

Call 01-252 8551

WALES

WYNDHAM NORTH WALES

Call 01-252 8551

WYNDHAM NORTH WALES

Call 01-252 8551

WYNDHAM NORTH WALES

Call 01-252 8551

WYNDHAM NORTH WALES

Call 01-252 8551

WYNDHAM NORTH WALES

Call 01-252 8551

WYNDHAM NORTH WALES

Call 01-252 8551

WYNDHAM NORTH WALES

Call 01-252 8551

WYNDHAM NORTH WALES

Call 01-252 8551

WYNDHAM NORTH WALES

Call 01-252 8551

WYNDHAM NORTH WALES

Call 01-252 8551

WYNDHAM NORTH WALES

Call 01-252 8551

SOUTH WEST ENGLAND

NEWQUAY, CORNWALL, 3-bedroomed, 100 sq ft, 100 sq ft

Call 01-252 8551

NEWQUAY, CORNWALL, 3-bedroomed, 100 sq ft, 100 sq ft

Call 01-252 8551

NEWQUAY, CORNWALL, 3-bedroomed, 100 sq ft, 100 sq ft

Call 01-252 8551

NEWQUAY, CORNWALL, 3-bedroomed, 100 sq ft, 100 sq ft

Call 01-252 8551

NEWQUAY, CORNWALL, 3-bedroomed, 100 sq ft, 100 sq ft

Call 01-252 8551

NEWQUAY, CORNWALL, 3-bedroomed, 100 sq ft, 100 sq ft

Call 01-252 8551

NEWQUAY, CORNWALL, 3-bedroomed, 100 sq ft, 100 sq ft

Call 01-252 8551

NEWQUAY, CORNWALL, 3-bedroomed, 100 sq ft, 100 sq ft

Call 01-252 8551

7 45 In Perspective. Religious News.
7 50 Down to Earth. Garden jobs.
8 9 News: Today's Papers.

[illegible]

reflections. 15 A Jolly Good Show
 ews. 9 9 British Press Review. 9 10
 World Today. 9 30 Financial News
 Look Ahead. 9 45 Handel in London.
 News: That's Trad. 70 15 Letter
 America. 10 30 People and Politics.
 News. 11 9 News about Britain.

Sports Row
Four Four
Country Mus

Now, 2 15 Album Time, 3 15 Special, 4 0
res, 1 15 Commentary, 4 15 Saturday
d, 5 0 News, Saturday Special, 8 0
15 What's New, 9 30 People and
15 News, 12 5 From our view
condom, 12 30 News Ideas, 11 40
ides, 10 45 Sports Roundup, 10 40
11 0 Commentary, 11 15 Letter-
11 30 Meridian, 12 0 midnight
11 30 am News about Britain, 12 0
11 30 News, 12 0 Baker, Hall
1 0 News; Play of the Week: A
A Lion, 2 0 News, 2 0 British Press
2 15 Sarkbut, and Sinifinas.
Sports Review, 3 0 News, 3 15 News
3 30 News, 4 0 From our view
spondent, 5 30 Jazz Score, 4 0
desk, 4 30 Out from the Floor, 5 45
from America.

[illegible]

Ship. 100 News; 10 News; Let
Seven Days. 11 20 Just for Fun.
ews; Gerry Davis; 20 Andy Cameron.
t. 2 30 The John Kerr Interview.
ales of the Hills. 30 News;
t. 3 30 The Musical Garden. 4 30
nd Paper. 50 News; 4

World

[illegible]

43 Recording of the Week

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

DEATHS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SAVE ANOTHER LIFE

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL

NATALIE FORD

KATHARINE WILSON

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE GROWING UP TODAY?

THE LONDON SCHOOL

FREE TICKETS available for Clubs

MAVE OFFERED God and mankind

WILLIAM VOLUNTEERS needed

FRIDAY'S LOVE OR MARRIAGE

ACLUH is being closed exclusively

PEASBROOKS 121,000 members

MOBILE WAREHOUSE

PHYSICIAN'S GYMNASIUM

MAVE OFFERED God and mankind

MAVE OFFERED God and mankind

MAVE OFFERED God and mankind

MAVE OFFERED God and mankind

MAVE OFFERED God and mankind

MAVE OFFERED God and mankind

MAVE OFFERED God and mankind

MAVE OFFERED God and mankind

MAVE OFFERED God and mankind

MAVE OFFERED God and mankind

MAVE OFFERED God and mankind

MAVE OFFERED God and mankind

MAVE OFFERED God and mankind

MAVE OFFERED God and mankind

MAVE OFFERED God and mankind

MAVE OFFERED God and mankind

MAVE OFFERED God and mankind

MAVE OFFERED God and mankind

MAVE OFFERED God and mankind

MAVE OFFERED God and mankind

MAVE OFFERED God and mankind

MAVE OFFERED God and mankind

MAVE OFFERED God and mankind

MAVE OFFERED God and mankind

MAVE OFFERED God and mankind

MAVE OFFERED God and mankind

MAVE OFFERED God and mankind

MAVE OFFERED God and mankind

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A WHACK ON THE SIDE OF THE HEAD

Unlock your Mind with Lateral Thinking

ANGUS & ROBERTSON

Advertisements

ARCHAEOLOGICAL VOLUNTEERS

HISTORIC BUILDINGS AND MONUMENTS

ART GALLERIES & EXHIBITIONS

ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS

THE LONDON SCHOOL

FREE TICKETS available for Clubs

MAVE OFFERED God and mankind

MAVE OFFERED God and mankind

MAVE OFFERED God and mankind

MAVE OFFERED God and mankind

MAVE OFFERED God and mankind

MAVE OFFERED God and mankind

MAVE OFFERED God and mankind

MAVE OFFERED God and mankind

MAVE OFFERED God and mankind

MAVE OFFERED God and mankind

MAVE OFFERED God and mankind

MAVE OFFERED God and mankind

MAVE OFFERED God and mankind

MAVE OFFERED God and mankind

MAVE OFFERED God and mankind

MAVE OFFERED God and mankind

MAVE OFFERED God and mankind

MAVE OFFERED God and mankind

MAVE OFFERED God and mankind

MAVE OFFERED God and mankind

MAVE OFFERED God and mankind

MAVE OFFERED God and mankind

MAVE OFFERED God and mankind

MAVE OFFERED God and mankind

MAVE OFFERED God and mankind

MAVE OFFERED God and mankind

MAVE OFFERED God and mankind

MAVE OFFERED God and mankind

MAVE OFFERED God and mankind

MAVE OFFERED God and mankind

MAVE OFFERED God and mankind

MAVE OFFERED God and mankind

MAVE OFFERED God and mankind

MAVE OFFERED God and mankind

MAVE OFFERED God and mankind

FASHION

RAINBOW SWEATER

West Country Trading

FOR THE OUTDOOR MAN

Woolcraft

OVER THE RAINBOW

Woolly Jumpers

AMELIA MAY

SPORTSWEAR SALE

40% OFF JOGGING SUITS

LECTURES & MEETINGS

ESOTERIC BUDDHISM

JAPANESE TEA CEREMONY

PUBLIC MEETING on limited liability

FAMILY HOLIDAYS

IVYHILL HOTEL for Families

LONDON HOTELS

ROYAL ADELPHIN HOTEL

GLIMVILL LODGES

IVYHILL HOTEL for Families

LONDON HOTELS

ROYAL ADELPHIN HOTEL

GLIMVILL LODGES

IVYHILL HOTEL for Families

LONDON HOTELS

ROYAL ADELPHIN HOTEL

GLIMVILL LODGES

IVYHILL HOTEL for Families

LONDON HOTELS

ROYAL ADELPHIN HOTEL

GLIMVILL LODGES

IVYHILL HOTEL for Families

LONDON HOTELS

ROYAL ADELPHIN HOTEL

GLIMVILL LODGES

IVYHILL HOTEL for Families

LONDON HOTELS

ROYAL ADELPHIN HOTEL

GLIMVILL LODGES

IVYHILL HOTEL for Families

LONDON HOTELS

ROYAL ADELPHIN HOTEL

GLIMVILL LODGES

IVYHILL HOTEL for Families

LONDON HOTELS

ROYAL ADELPHIN HOTEL

UK HOLIDAYS

TORQUAY Special Bargain Breaks

MANOR HOUSE HOTEL

THE ROYAL LION HOTEL

LYNE REGIS, DORSET

THE ROYAL LION HOTEL

LYNE REGIS, DORSET

THE ROYAL LION HOTEL

LYNE REGIS, DORSET

THE ROYAL LION HOTEL

LYNE REGIS, DORSET

THE ROYAL LION HOTEL

LYNE REGIS, DORSET

THE ROYAL LION HOTEL

LYNE REGIS, DORSET

THE ROYAL LION HOTEL

LYNE REGIS, DORSET

THE ROYAL LION HOTEL

LYNE REGIS, DORSET

THE ROYAL LION HOTEL

LYNE REGIS, DORSET

THE ROYAL LION HOTEL

LYNE REGIS, DORSET

THE ROYAL LION HOTEL

LYNE REGIS, DORSET

THE ROYAL LION HOTEL

LYNE REGIS, DORSET

THE ROYAL LION HOTEL

LYNE REGIS, DORSET

THE ROYAL LION HOTEL

LYNE REGIS, DORSET

THE ROYAL LION HOTEL

LYNE REGIS, DORSET

THE ROYAL LION HOTEL

LYNE REGIS, DORSET

THE ROYAL LION HOTEL

LYNE REGIS, DORSET

THE ROYAL LION HOTEL

LYNE REGIS, DORSET

THE ROYAL LION HOTEL

LYNE REGIS, DORSET

THE ROYAL LION HOTEL

LYNE REGIS, DORSET

THE ROYAL LION HOTEL

LYNE REGIS, DORSET

THE ROYAL LION HOTEL

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

EUROVISTA WORLD TRAVEL

Many daily departures from Heathrow & Gatwick

SHORT HAUL

SKY FLY DRIVE

U.S.A. WINTER BARGAINS

YOUR DREAM HOLIDAY NOW - PAY LATER!

Now you can book the holiday of a lifetime

Tel (18 lines): 01-741 5301, 01-741 5351

Rafel House, Colet Gardens, London W14 9DH

Open until 7 p.m. (5 p.m. Saturdays)

Credit is granted subject to normal lending requirements

ABTA, IATA, ATOL, Office of Fair Trading

SELF CATERING OVERSEAS

VILLA AND APARTMENT HOLIDAYS

France, Switzerland, Lisbon, Algarve

A wide selection of villas and apartments

THE TRAVEL CENTRE

64 Shire Road, Gorton, Tel: 01-656 6543

SPECIAL INTEREST HOLIDAYS

Holidays for WALKERS, STROLLERS

Green Lanes of England

Enjoying two to ten mile strolls

Brochure: Green Lanes of England (G)

30 Haverock Road, Newchapel NE22 3RG

Tel: 0603 662445 (24 hrs)

Scotland's Highland Magic

Hebridean Wildlife Holidays

ISLE OF ARRAN, GILY, SCOTLAND, K&S 88K

Tel: (0770) 3562

IRELAND

SUPER SEASIDE FARMHOUSE for 8

Studio for 2, 2nd floor for 6, 3rd floor for 8

CO MAYO, Simple Cottage (open fire)

SHOCK COTTAGES, West 60

WOLFE, West 60, 120 rooms in 120, low level

SEASONAL BREAKS

BAYN, OLDEST COACHING INN offers

private bath, 24 hr. bar, room with

private bath, 24 hr. bar, room with

private bath, 24 hr. bar, room with

private bath, 24 hr. bar, room with

private bath, 24 hr. bar, room with

private bath, 24 hr. bar, room with

private bath, 24 hr. bar, room with

private bath, 24 hr. bar, room with

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

EUROVISTA WORLD TRAVEL

Many daily departures from Heathrow & Gatwick

SHORT HAUL

SKY FLY DRIVE

U.S.A. WINTER BARGAINS

YOUR DREAM HOLIDAY NOW - PAY LATER!

Now you can book the holiday of a lifetime

Tel (18 lines): 01-741 5301, 01-741 5351

Rafel House, Colet Gardens, London W14 9DH

Open until 7 p.m. (5 p.m. Saturdays)

Credit is granted subject to normal lending requirements

ABTA, IATA, ATOL, Office of Fair Trading

SELF CATERING OVERSEAS

VILLA AND APARTMENT HOLIDAYS

France, Switzerland, Lisbon, Algarve

A wide selection of villas and apartments

THE TRAVEL CENTRE

64 Shire Road, Gorton, Tel: 01-656 6543

SPECIAL INTEREST HOLIDAYS

Holidays for WALKERS, STROLLERS

Green Lanes of England

Enjoying two to ten mile strolls

Brochure: Green Lanes of England (G)

30 Haverock Road, Newchapel NE22 3RG

Tel: 0603 662445 (24 hrs)

Scotland's Highland Magic

Hebridean Wildlife Holidays

ISLE OF ARRAN, GILY, SCOTLAND, K&S 88K

Tel: (0770) 3562

IRELAND

SUPER SEASIDE FARMHOUSE for 8

Studio for 2, 2nd floor for 6, 3rd floor for 8

CO MAYO, Simple Cottage (open fire)

SHOCK COTTAGES, West 60

WOLFE, West 60, 120 rooms in 120, low level

SEASONAL BREAKS

BAYN, OLDEST COACHING INN offers

private bath, 24 hr. bar, room with

private bath, 24 hr. bar, room with

private bath, 24 hr. bar, room with

private bath, 24 hr. bar, room with

private bath, 24 hr. bar, room with

private bath, 24 hr. bar, room with

private bath, 24 hr. bar, room with

private bath, 24 hr. bar, room with

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

EUROVISTA WORLD TRAVEL

Many daily departures from Heathrow & Gatwick

SHORT HAUL

SKY FLY DRIVE

U.S.A. WINTER BARGAINS

YOUR DREAM HOLIDAY NOW - PAY LATER!

Now you can book the holiday of a lifetime

Tel (18 lines): 01-741 5301, 01-741 5351

Rafel House, Colet Gardens, London W14 9DH

Open until 7 p.m. (5 p.m. Saturdays)

Credit is granted subject to normal lending requirements

ABTA, IATA, ATOL, Office of Fair Trading

SELF CATERING OVERSEAS

VILLA AND APARTMENT HOLIDAYS

France, Switzerland, Lisbon, Algarve

A wide selection of villas and apartments

THE TRAVEL CENTRE

64 Shire Road, Gorton, Tel: 01-656 6543

SPECIAL INTEREST HOLIDAYS

